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'Fund's 1st contract with Wilshire also had no AG review'. PAGE 5

Shell follows Mobil's 10-cent gas price cut. PAGE 7

Fitial working to privatize CHC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Manila-based firm now building Guam hospital conducts CHC assessment

» Senate, House health panels: Give corporation time to grow

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's administration is now looking at privatizing the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and is working with Philippine-based The Medical City to assess the viability of transitioning the only government hospital in the CNMI into a private entity. But it is still a long shot, given the need to invite proposers instead of awarding a sole-source contract.

The Medical City is currently building an estimated $220-million private hospital in Guam, to be called the Guam Regional Medical City and to be completed in 2014.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said The Medical City "is doing the assessment on their own" and will not cost the CNMI government.

"The governor welcomes any other private providers who may be interested in presenting their plans," Demapan said

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'OAG micromanaging healthcare corp.'

» AG: Kearney did not approve ICS deal

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday accused Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham of "micromanaging" the corporation, hobbling its efforts to solve its dismal financial situation.

Babauta

Buckingham

Babauta's statement was made during a special meeting of the corporation's board of trustees, to which Buckingham was invited to attend by board chair Joaquin Torres.

"You, in many, many respects, have micromanaged [the corporation]," Babauta told Buckingham after the latter explained why he issued a notice to cease and desist all activities between the corporation and International Consulting Services, the Idaho-based company being eyed to provide billing and collection services for the Commonwealth Health Center.

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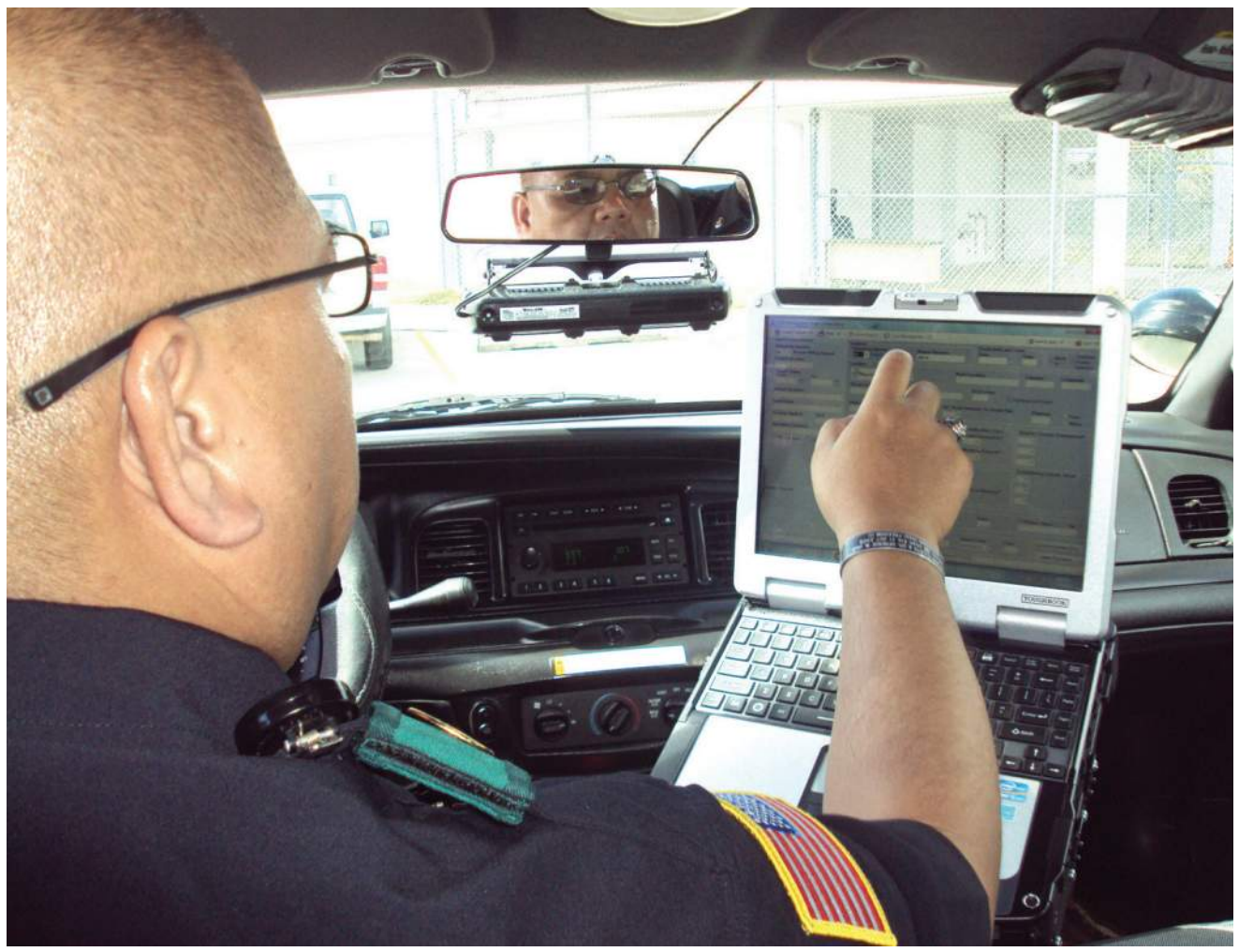

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section officer-in-charge Sgt. Anthony Macaranas demonstrates the use of the electronic crash reporting system inside a police vehicle. Two police vehicles are now equipped with the new system that will allow a police officer to electronically transmit crash reports from their vehicles to an islandwide traffic safety information database.

DPS goes high tech with electronic crash reporting system

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is going high tech, with traffic officers now able to write vehicular crash reports at the scene.

According to acting DPS commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro, the new electronic crash reporting system will allow police to electronically transmit crash reports from their vehicles to an islandwide traffic safety information database.

"The new system will help reduce roadway injuries and fatalities and will provide a means to identify roadway hazards and develop appropriate countermeasures," Ogumoro said.

Sgt. Anthony Macaranas, officer-in-charge of DPS Traffic Section, said that what the system does allows traffic officers to write the crash report on the scene and in the comfort of a police vehicle.

"The beauty of that, it also has mapping where when you come to the scene, just tap that and it will show the GPS location of where the crime scene is," Macaranas said.

He said the system is very helpful to investigators, especially when it's a seri-

See DPS on Page 4

OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you intend to sign the petition to place the question of Saipan casino legalization on the Nov. 6 ballot?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

SPECIAL SECTION

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises is celebrating 63 years of making a name in the retail business. ➤ PAGE 17

NATION

President Obama support for gay marriage sends ripples. ➤ PAGE 26

LIFE & STYLE

The "American Idol" judges are under Joshua Ledet's spell. ➤ PAGE 32

Local

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Scholarship program for those wanting to become teachers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students looking at pursuing a teaching career may now be able to afford taking a course at the Northern Marianas College after the U.S. Department of Education recently approved NMC's participation in the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education or TEACH Grant Program.

Open to both U.S. and non-U.S. citizens, the TEACH Grant Program is aimed at providing up to $4,000 per year to students who plan to complete or are completing the required coursework to begin a teaching career without having to demonstrate financial need.

Hart

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart led other college officials in making the announcement at the Board of Regents conference room yesterday.

Hart said they received the official approval notice via a letter dated April 27 from Erik Fosker, U.S. DOE Team Lead for School Participation Team, NW, San Francisco/Seattle Team. This makes the CNMI's community college one of the over 700 colleges and universities throughout the nation that are eligible to receive the grant.

Hart said this will open the door for more individuals to enroll in a teaching-related degree in the Commonwealth.

"Normally, any kind of financial aid or scholarship typically must be need-based," said Hart, explaining that this program would not require income guidelines. "That's the beauty of it."

Hart noted, however, that there are eligibility requirements that students must meet to be considered and eventually qualify for the grant. These include maintaining a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 or scoring above the 75th percentile on a college admissions test; be enrolled as an undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, or graduate student, in a coursework that allows for the student to begin a teaching career, and the signing of a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve.

The agreement stipulates that the grant recipient must serve as a full-time, highly qualified teacher at a designated low-income school for "at least four academic years" within eight years after the coursework is completed.

The teaching service to be provided should be in "high-need fields" which are bilingual education and English language acquisition, foreign language, mathematics, reading specialist, science, special education, and other fields deemed by the federal or state government as high-need.

If the TEACH Grant recipient fails to meet the requirement, the grant will be converted to a loan that must be paid in full at 6.8 percent interest.

Daisy Manglona-Propst, financial aid director at NMC, said that the recipients will be monitored to ensure that they satisfy the requirements.

Although it was noted that the program will start in the fall semester, Manglona-Propst has been instructed to check the possibility of having it over the summer period.

Interested individuals may visit the NMC campus in As Terlaje or call the School of Education 234-5498 Ext. 2232 to 36 or the Financial Aid Office at Ext. 1525 to 27 for more information.

ON TOP OF FITIAL'S BUDGET SUBMISSION

PSS, NMC, DPS, CHC ask House committee for at least $25M more

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and other panel members now have the daunting task of deciding where to get or how much, if at all, will be given to four government agencies that have a combined request of $25 million more than Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's $102 million proposed budget for fiscal year 2013.

Basa's committee wrapped up yesterday afternoon its budget hearings, before it could deliberate on the fiscal year 2013 budget.

The combined $25 million in additional funding are requested by at least four agencies: the Public School System, an additional $10 million; Northern Marianas College, an additional $3 million; the Department of Public Safety, $2 million more; and Commonwealth Health Corp., a government subsidy of $10 million.

In yesterday's budget hearing, Education Commissioner Rita Sablan and financial consultant Ed Tenorio told lawmakers that the Board of Education approved a $40 million fiscal year 2013 budget for PSS. But the governor's budget submission gave PSS only $30 million, meeting the maintenance-of-efforts requirements.

Sablan said PSS needs a lot more than $30 million to efficiently run the system, including payments to educators.

Tenorio said PSS will be able to negotiate a $36-million budget, as a result of aggressive cost cutting on the part of PSS. He said PSS is hoping that the Fitial administration will be able to remit to PSS $9 million in outstanding remittances for previous years.

NMC officials led by president Sharon Hart, in a separate budget hearing yesterday, asked for an $8 million budget, $3 million more than the governor's proposal of $5 million.

Last week, CHC officials led by chief financial officer Alvaro Santos asked the House Ways and Means Committee to provide a $10 million annual subsidy to CHC for it to run efficiently and until it is able to stand on its own two feet.

CHC said this is on top of the $2.5 million that the governor submitted, and the proposed additional $7 million revolving line of credit for CHC from the Marianas Public Land Trust.

DPS officials led by acting Commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro also asked for a $10 million budget for DPS, which is $2 million higher than the governor's submission. Fitial gave DPS $8 million for 2013, which was already $2 million more than the 2012 budget of $6 million.

Businesses donate to the Green Gala event

Despite the CNMI's dwindling economy, businesses remain supportive by providing monetary or in-kind donations to non-profit organizations such as the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

Various businesses have donated to MINA's Green Gala event—a fundraising effort to raise necessary funds to continue to effectively conserve the CNMI's natural resources through community-led programs such as Tasi Watch, Teacher Camp, and the Adopt-A-Bin Program.

Businesses that have donated to the Green Gala event under the title sponsorship are the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Pacific Trading Co. and professional photographer Kurt Baumgartner. Major sponsor is Hyatt Regency Saipan. ***(PR)***

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FITIAL

From Page 1

when asked whether Fitial plans to meet other private providers as well.

Fitial's plan of privatizing the CNMI hospital comes barely seven months since the government hospital transitioned into a corporation.

Senate Health Committee chair Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and House Health Committee chair Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) separately said that the Fitial administration should not rush to privatizing the hospital without giving CHC the chance to really grow.

Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, CHC board members and other officials met with The Medical City officials yesterday morning at the governor's office on Capital Hill. The TMC group was led by Margaret Bengzon, president and chief executive officer of Guam Regional Medical City.

Privatization is expected help the hospital further improve the delivery of patient care and treatment, billings and collections, among other things.

Demapan said The Medical City is a tertiary care hospital with over 40 years' experience in hospital operation and administration.

"They were on island today to brief the administration and the corporation on their experiences in successfully managing a privately-operated hospital. They informed the governor and lieutenant governor that they will tour the CHC facility today to conduct an assessment on the viability of transitioning the lone hospital into privatization," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Once their assessment is completed, Demapan said "they intend to once again brief the governor and lieutenant governor, at which time further discussion on the future of the hospital would be discussed."

The Medical City serves some 40,000 in-patients and 400,000 outpatients annually, its website says. TMC has a medical staff of over 1,000 physicians who are established experts in their various fields of specialization. This core of professionals is complemented by a 2,200-strong human resource complement, engaged in allied medical, administrative, and support services, it adds.

The company website also says The Medical City is accredited by the Joint Commission International, the world's most prestigious accrediting body for international health care organizations.

Torres, chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, believes that despite CHC's problems with its billing and collection, among other things, the corporation will be able to turn the hospital around if given enough support.

"I still believe the corporation can work, but maybe it's just being run by the wrong person," Torres said. "We should give the corporation a chance to grow and stand on its own feet rather than rush to privatize it."

If and when the Fitial administration and CHC are really convinced that privatization is the way to go, there should not be a sole-source award of contract to privatize the hospital, Torres said.

"There should be an RFP [request for proposal]. Look at what happened with the ICS [International Consulting Services LLC] contract. Had we done an RFP in the beginning, we wouldn't have all these problems with the contract and we could have availed of the services of real, legitimate experts now. ICS is not the only billing expert in the world," he said.

Iguel, for his part, said he's "very much surprised" that the administration is now looking at privatizing the hospital.

"I have to agree with my counterpart in the Senate. We have to really look into this before making a decision. We have been working with the corporation to make the hospital work and in the middle of the game, there's a change of plan. We should see what the corporation can do first and not make drastic change," Iguel said.

Bills now before the governor

Fitial placed CHC under a state of emergency again on April 20, allowing for both the reprogramming of funds to prevent a hospital shutdown and for the corporation to continue to contract with ICS for medical billing services without going through standard procurement rules.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham earlier issued a cease-and-desist notice to CHC as the ICS contract "did not meet procurement regulations," and later on, said the CHC-ICS contract negotiations were not proceeding anymore.

Since the emergency declaration, the Fitial administration has not reprogrammed funds to CHC.

At the urging of CHC, the House and Senate passed a compromise bill that would authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust to provide an additional revolving line of credit of up to $7 million to CHC so it can efficiently run its operations and prevent shutdown. That compromise measure, House Bill 17-278, is still under the administration's review.

"The bill is currently under consideration," Demapan said.

No sense of urgency?

Torres said there doesn't seem to be any urgency on the part of the governor to approve the $7 million line of credit bill for CHC. He said this may be because CHC reportedly has $2.5 million that has yet to be drawn down, so this means CHC still has money to spare.

"Based on the information I got, CHC has not drawn down because it has yet to identify billings for it. Why not reimburse when the $2.5 million check is ready? I was told it's still on the CEO's desk," he said.

Babauta had yet to return media calls as of press time, for comment on this particular matter.

A separate document obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday afternoon also shows that Medicare made payments to the hospital and hemodialysis unit totaling $906,976.63 since November 2011.

CHC's Babauta gave a detailed list of payments to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson in a May 8 letter.

In that letter, Babauta asked Larson to "please prepare an accounting for when and how these payments were received and processed by CNMI Department of Finance-Treasury and provide the specific dates and voucher numbers under which these funds were transferred to CHCC's account."

Based on Babauta's letter, there was close to $33,000 in payment made by Medicare to CHC on Feb. 27, for example, or over $78,000 on Feb. 21, 2012.

The list was from Dec. 1, 2011 to April 6, 2012. The individual payments range from $93.12 to $78,009.34.

'Governing' board

Torres said the governor also has before him his Senate bill that would change the CHC board from an "advisory" to a "governing" one.

He said he introduced Senate Bill 17-80 as early as June 2011, months before appointments to the CHC board were made, but the bill gathered dust at the House and only recently found its way to the governor's desk.

"I think that had the board been changed to governing since then, we wouldn't have a problem such as ICS because there's going to be more individuals looking and approving a contract and not just one or two," he said.

Torres, however, said "it's not yet time to call for an oversight hearing on CHC's contracts with vendors" and related matters. "But we are closely monitoring the situation at CHC," he added.

Iguel said his committee is also keeping an eye on CHC matters.

POLICE BLUE MASS FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Federal and local law enforcers pose for a group photo after the Police Blue Mass yesterday morning at San Jose Church. The Mass was intended to recognize all law enforcers and to remember those who have fallen in the line of duty.

See story on next page.

DPS

From Page 1

ous crash.

"The officer can do his report in his vehicle. And when he is done, he will just transfer it to my vehicle and I will review it. The officer will review it and then if it's okay I will send over the records electronically," he said.

Macaranas said police vehicles in the U.S. mainland already have this kind of system, but DPS is only using it for now on vehicular crashes.

Ogumoro said this program, funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Section 408, is part of an initiative that includes the Superior Court, the Department of Public Works, and DPS.

He said the initiative is part of a larger effort that includes electronic citations, a roadway information management system, and an integrated reporting analysis tool, which will be completed by September 2012.

Ledge Light Technologies developed the system, paid for by a federal grant awarded to the CNMI's Office of Highway Safety.

Ogumoro said the new technology will aid the CNMI in its goal to achieve zero deaths in car accidents.

He said it has now been installed in two DPS police vehicles with a full department-wide rollout expected within the following year.

OAG

From Page 1

According to Babauta, the AG's role is to look at any contract such as that of ICS only to ensure that it is legally sufficient. Instead, he asked for documents such as workflows and benchmarks that are no longer legal issues.

For Buckingham to be involved in an argument concerning ICS' commission rate is also one example "that does not involve the legal sufficiency of the contract," Babauta said.

ICS was originally approved a six-year contract that will pay it an 11 percent commission in the first three years and 11.5 percent in the last three years. A meeting between the OAG and the corporation last April 27 resulted to an agreement to reduce the fee to the industry standard level.

Buckingham maintained, however, that the need for his office to assess the "enforceability" of the ICS contract is an action that is both legal and factual in nature. He added that his legal judgment says the contract is "vague" and "unclear" on the roles and responsibilities of both ICS and the corporation.

The AG also stressed that with the ICS being sole-sourced, both OAG and the Procurement Division were not involved in the contracting process that would have ensured the benefits of a "competitive" contract for the corporation.

"There was no evidence of competition. None," Buckingham emphasized, adding that Babauta, as corporation CEO, does not have the right to make the decision to sign the contract by himself without both the Procurement Division and the OAG.

Babauta noted that the board asked their legal counsel, assistant attorney general James Kearney, if there was any problem on the contract, who responded that there was none.

The CEO also claimed that Kearney came to his office to "demand" that the corporation implement the reduction-in-force before the OAG signs the loan from the Marianas Public Land Trust, underlining that the timing was "inappropriate."

Buckingham repeatedly insisted that Kearney told him that he neither reviewed nor approved the ICS contract. As Kearney was not at the meeting, the AG said the matter should be discussed "at an appropriate time" to give Kearney the opportunity to answer any "accusation."

Moreover, Buckingham emphasized that it was a "bad move" on the part of the corporation to have its assets potentially hauled to court by MPLT because of the loan, which will be disadvantageous to the CNMI.

"You may not like that in terms of micromanagement. I, as a lawyer, felt that that was and is a bad deal for the Commonwealth in terms of exposure," he added.

Echoing Babauta's "micromanaging" sentiment, Dr. Trenton Scheibe said that OAG has a "conflict of interest" as it cannot serve both the corporation and the governor's office at the same time.

"The government is getting involved in [the corporation] and by not letting the board and the CEO do what they need to do, you are micromanaging," he said.

Scheibe also asked if there is any legal statute that would allow the corporation to hire its own legal representation. He said both the OAG and the governor should stop micromanaging if they really want to help both the corporation and the community in general.

He questioned previous instances where the OAG allowed for other sole-source contracts, citing the case Michael J. Ada, former Commerce secretary who is now affiliated with Integrated Professional Solutions LLC or IPS. IPS was awarded a $392,406 sole-source, 18-month contract to manage the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program in the CNMI.

Buckingham explained that while he did not like what happened with that contract, the Office of the Public Auditor opined that the sole-sourcing of IPS made a strong case to be justified.

The AG said that it is a "little late and a little cheap" to be critical about the IPS but pointed out that that contract went through Procurement Division, Finance Department, and his office, as opposed to the ICS contract.

Buckingham said that while the views expressed were different, the exchange was healthy, appropriate, and good.

'Fund's first contract with Wilshire also had no AG review'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations chair Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) said yesterday that the NMI Retirement Fund's first contract with its investment consultant, Wilshire Consulting Associates, costing $195,000 didn't undergo review by the Office of the Attorney General, unlike the second contract worth $165,000.

Cruz said the Senate EAGI Committee reviewed copies of the Fund's contracts with Wilshire during its consideration of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's appointees to the Fund board, including former chair Sixto Igisomar.

The committee, which reviews and recommends actions on the governor's appointments and re-appointments to boards and commissions, questioned the Fund's exorbitant professional service fees of over $9 million from fiscal year 2008 to the first five months of fiscal year 2012, including legal fees.

The Fund has since filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, the first public pension agency on U.S. soil to ever seek bankruptcy protection.

"Now the attorney general is saying the hospital contract with ICS [International Consulting Services LLC] didn't follow procurement rules because it wasn't reviewed by the attorney general. This first Wilshire contract also was not reviewed by the AG, only by the Fund's counsel Kern," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune.*

The Fund's first contract with Wilshire in October 2010 was signed only by Wilshire Consulting president Julia Bonafede and Fund's Igisomar, along with Fund counsel Carolyn Kern as to form and legal sufficiency, and certified as complying with procurement regulations by Fund administrator Richard Villagomez.

The second Fund-Wilshire contract in February 2012 was signed by Bonafede, Igisomar and Villagomez, and reviewed for legal sufficiency by Attorney General Edward Buckingham.

The Fund hired Wilshire as its investment consultant to replace embattled Merrill Lynch.

Wilshire terminated its services with the Fund in October 2011 following the enactment in September of the Beneficiaries Derivative Act, which was seen as increasing the company's exposure to litigation. But Wilshire agreed to return to the Fund following the repeal of that law.

The board also put on hold the hiring of money managers until Wilshire was officially on board. The Fund's money managers also left because of the impact of the then derivative law.

Law enforcers fill church for Police Blue Mass

Federal and local law enforcers filled the San Jose Church yesterday morning to attend the Police Blue Mass, which is intended to recognize all law enforcers and to remember those who have fallen in the line of duty.

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos joined the law enforcers at the Mass that started at 9am. Many family members of law enforcers also attended the Mass.

Acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro said that having 80 to 90 percent of the DPS force at the Mass "means a lot."

"It's a good sign that we're working together," said Ombrosio, adding that only those on patrol duty were absent.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said the Police Blue Mass is the kickoff of the Police Week celebration.

Tarkong said that Police Week is recognized by the federal and local governments.

"During Police Blue Mass we recognize all the officers on duty and those who have fallen in the line of duty," he said.

It is not just the local law enforcers that are recognized but also federal law enforcers and some military who died in the line of duty, Tarkong said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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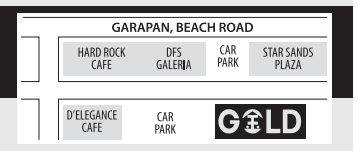

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Woman found guilty of immigration fraud

A federal jury issued a guilty verdict yesterday against a Chinese woman accused of lying in her immigration application.

After deliberating for less than two hours, the 12 jurors reached a verdict finding Liwen Tang guilty of two counts of immigration document fraud.

Tang, seated beside her court-appointed counsel, Colin Thompson, was calm as a court staff read the verdict.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona scheduled Tang's sentencing on Aug. 24, 2012.

Manglona allowed Tang to remain free on bail until her sentencing.

The jury selection was conducted on Tuesday afternoon. The trial itself began on Wednesday.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe on Wednesday called to the stand four witnesses: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services adjudicator Jesselee Santos-Krider, Homeland Security Investigations special agent Christopher Kobayashi, HSI special agent Michael D. Lansangan, and interpreter Monique Kramer.

After recalling the prosecution's first witness, Santos-Krider, Backe rested the U.S. government's case.

Thompson then moved for a judgment of acquittal but Manglona denied the motion.

The trial resumed yesterday afternoon with the judge providing jury instructions. Deliberations immediately followed.

According to the indictment, Tang lied in her application to register permanent residence or adjust status with USCIS. Tang claimed that she has only one child, a daughter born in 2006, when in fact she also gave birth to a son in April 2002. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Petition for rehearing found frivolous

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has found frivolous a petition for rehearing filed by a woman who was convicted of possessing methamphetamine or "ice" with intent to distribute and for violating probation conditions.

The Ninth Circuit ruled that Julita Aldan Sablan's appeal is a commonplace sentencing appeal that does not involve "a legal or factual issue of unique interest or substantial public importance."

According to the Ninth Circuit judges in their order filed Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Sablan's generous below-guideline sentence was the result of having committed the same serious felony offense for which she was already on supervised release, not because of any miscalculation on the part of the district court.

"Counsels are expected to make proper use of petitions for rehearing, not file them just because they exist," the Ninth Circuit judges pointed out.

Sablan was sentenced in November 2010 to 70 months in prison for possession of "ice" with intent to distribute and 15 months for violating supervised release conditions. The sentences are to be served consecutively for a total of 85 months (seven years and one month). It was Sablan's third conviction.

Sablan, through counsel George Anthony Long, had appealed to the Ninth Circuit to reverse the order.

In affirming the sentence, the Ninth Circuit judges pointed out that her sentence is substantively reasonable.

In denying her petition for a rehearing, the Ninth Circuit judges said that contrary to Long's assertion, the panel thoroughly considered all the issues presented in Sablan's appeal. The Ninth Circuit judges said the facts and legal arguments were adequately presented in the briefs and the record.

"The panel's choice of an unpublished disposition to resolve this appeal was dictated by Ninth Circuit Rule 36-2, not by an unawareness of the significance of this case to [Sablan]," the judges said.

The issues presented, the judges noted, do not merit a published opinion. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Shell follows Mobil's 10-cent gas price cut

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shell Marianas mirrored Mobil Oil Mariana Islands' 10-cent a gallon gas price reduction on Saipan, bittersweet news for motorists wishing that prices would further go down as they continue to deal with work hour cuts, high utility costs, and joblessness.

Mobil slashed its pump prices on Tuesday. Shell followed on Wednesday.

Regular gas price on Saipan is now $5.059 a gallon after a 10-cent cut, while super/V-Power is now $5.379 a gallon.

Diesel now costs $5.419 a gallon on Saipan.

Rudy Santos, of San Vicente, said Shell and Mobil are fast in raising prices but are slow to reduce them when all others in the region had already done so.

"Yes, a 10-cent cut is okay. But we need it to be much lower. Still, if you are earning minimum wage of $5.05 an hour, you need to work one full hour so you can buy gas," Santos said as he was buying $10 worth of gas at a Shell station in Dandan.

Ever since pump prices began hitting the $5-mark, Santos has stopped using his van's air conditioner to save on gas.

Ireksin Made, of As Lito, said the $21 they put into their family's pickup truck last for only about three days, and that's considered a big chunk of the household's budget.

"I wish gas is back to $3. We've already been cutting almost everywhere but we can't do anything about the gas price," he said.

CNMI gas prices, especially those on Rota and Tinian, are the highest on American soil.

Mobil earlier said that prices of gasoline are determined by a number of factors, including changes in the world market wholesale prices of gasoline, regional gasoline supply and demand balance, transportation costs, insurance, local distribution, marketing costs, government regulations, taxes, competitive market forces, and investments in retail stations and distribution terminals.

CULTURAL CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Tinian Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on making golai appan, gutyuria, and kottot (folded paper sculpture), this Saturday, at the Tinian Senior Citizen Center Pavilion. The lessons will start at 9am. Bring your children so they, too, can learn the traditional ways of the Chamorros and Carolinians.

On Saipan, the Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters is offering free lesson to Chamorros and Carolinians on making atmatyas, katdun pika and potu. The activities start at 9:30am and are held at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters at 1213 Capital Hill Road, across from the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the Board of Parole Office.

The activities on Tinian and Saipan are offered by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Community and Cultural Affairs, Office of the Mayor, Tinian, and the Indigenous Affairs Office, and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 433-9220 on Tinian and ask for Raymond Sablan; call 322-0278 on Saipan. ***(PR)***

NMC summer registration

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's upcoming summer 2012 semester will begin on Thursday, May 17, 2012, and will continue until Friday, May 18, 2012. This is for NMC's extended summer session, which will run from May 21 to Aug. 10, 2012.

New students are required to take the English and math placement tests before they register. The schedule of placement tests and the summer 2012 class schedule can be found online at www.nmcnet.edu. Note that the first placement test is on Monday, May 14, 2012.

Those who have not applied for admission can still do so by visiting the College's Office of Admissions and Records and picking up an application form. Application forms can also be downloaded from the NMC website.

Application for admissions will be accepted until the last day of registration provided that both placement tests have been taken.

There is a $25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 4pm). Students who have a fee waiver must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records prior to taking the test.

For more information, contact OAR at 234-5498 Ext. 1537 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 17-18: Registration for extended summer session
- May 21: First day of classes for extended summer session
- May 28: Memorial Day (legal holiday)
- June 11-13: Registration for regular summer session
- June 14: First day of classes for regular summer session
- July 4: Liberation Day (legal holiday)
- Aug. 9: Last day of classes
- Aug. 10: Final exams
- Aug. 13: Grades due

ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE

- May 14 and 16: 9am – 4pm, Building M
- May 15 and 17: 9am – 6pm, Building M
- May 18: 9am – 2pm, Building M
- June 4-7: 9am – 4pm, Building M
- June 8: 9am – 2pm, Building M

MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE

- May 17: 10am – 12pm, Room D-1
- May 17: 5pm – 7pm, Room D-1

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Important dates and activities for MHS

■ May 11: JROTC Change of Command Ceremony

■ May 15: Teen Truth Live-Student Assembly on Bullying, Drugs, and Alcohol- MHS Gym. Parents, there will be a video showing of the Columbine school shooting incident that presenters will use as part of their anti-violence presentation. If you do not want your child to see this video clip, fill out the Parental Permission Slip that will be sent out to students this today.

■ May 15, 2012: PTSA meeting, 5pm-6pm at the MHS Gym.

■ May 16: HPV vaccinations for female students at MHS. Parents, please sign consent forms if you would like your daughter to receive these series of vaccinations.

■ May 21-25: Standards Based Assessment for all MHS students.

■ May 30-31: Senior graduation practice, 8:30am-12pm.

■ June 1: Awards ceremony for graduating seniors, MHS Gym, 10am

■ June 4: MHS graduation, 4pm, MHS Gym

■ June 11: Last day of classes for 9th, 10th, and 11th graders *(PR)*

Music school to hold Mother's Day recital

Li'l Hands School of Music will be staging its 6th Annual Musical Recital-A Mother's Day Tribute this Sunday, May 13, at the American Memorial Park Theater.

The recital starts at 3pm and will feature Li'l Hands musical talents honoring their mothers with piano performances, songs, and even some dances.

Main sponsors for the annual musical event are HBR International and National Office Supply. *(PR)*

MHS Class of '83 to host trash-a-thon

This is to invite Marianas High School Class of 1983 for Trash-A-Thon this coming May 26, 2012, Saturday, at 2pm at the Civic Center Beach Pavilion. Also, we're looking for softball alumni teams this coming June 2012. You may contact Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665 for more details. *(PR)*

NMC graduation important dates

The Northern Marianas College is inviting all community members to its 32nd Commencement Exercise on Saturday, May 19, 2012, at 4pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The college is also reminding all graduating NMC students to note the following important dates:

■ May 15, Tuesday: Graduation Class meeting, 4pm in Room D-1 (NMC As Terlaje campus)

■ May 17, Thursday: Graduation Mass, 3pm at San Vicente Church

■ May 18, Friday: Graduation rehearsal, 4pm at the MHS Gym

■ May 19, Saturday: NMC 32nd Commencement Exercise, 4pm at the MHS Gym

Graduation candidates are advised to arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of the NMC graduation Mass and graduation rehearsal, and one hour prior to the start of the commencement exercise. Candidates are also encouraged to wear their graduation gowns to the Graduation Mass. *(NMC)*

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Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 13, 2012
Adult - $30.00 • Child - $15.00 (6-11 years old)
20% discount for all local residents

Inclusive of:
Family Portrait Shooting
(Family picture print per family)
Flower for Mother
Raffle drawing with a lot of gifts
Choral by Marianas High School GLEE Club

Display Booths
Toki's Local Handicraft
Orchids & Ornamental Plants
and more……

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 11, 1999

Rota Resort and Country Club faces closure

The Rota Resort and Country Club faces closure if the government would not extend its land lease agreement for another 15 years, according to legislators. Its fate is expected to be decided by next month after the Board of Public Lands has completed review of the initial 25-year lease forged with the Japanese-owned resort. SNM Corporation, which owns and operates the main tourism facility on Rota, has appealed to government officials to grant the request or "they may close down because they keep losing money," said Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig.

Ingram's proposal draws flak

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is unlikely to support a proposal that would transfer to local mayors some key functions of the Department of Public Safety, saying such plan is not suited for a small community like the Northern Marianas. Public Safety Commissioner Charles Ingram has put forward the proposal in an attempt to unburden DPS with duties which he said could be taken care of by leaders of island municipalities. Ingram is looking at unloading the department of the responsibilities of ensuring boating safety, motor vehicles administration and fire fighting because of limited manpower.

May 11, 2000

Chamber seeks participation in govt policy-making

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Lynn Knight has expressed support for a proposed measure which seeks to forge closer relations between the business community and the CNMI government. Saying the business sector has always been actively involved in assisting the government develop plans, Ms. Knight hopes that the government leaders would take their advice seriously and use the information for public benefit rather than allowing these plans gather dust on the shelves. "While we were taking time away from our businesses to support these efforts, the public officials were on the payroll and were not always mindful of the need to be efficient with our time," she added. Ms. Knight emphasized that businesspeople can give practical advice and help government employees think creatively outside of the box of bureaucracy.

Fed training boosts SGMA'S labor compliance

The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association wrapped up a training seminar last week with federal enforcement officials impressed by noticeable changes in employment conditions in Saipan's garment sector. SGMA executive director Richard A. Pierce said more than 70 participants from 31 SGMA member factories participated in the training which dealt extensively with the association's Code of Conduct. The code imposes rigorous measures on the garment industry to comply with all applicable local and federal labor laws. "I am very gratified to see that over the last three to four years there has been a remarkable turnaround in safety compliance, particularly in the garment industry," commented Frank Strasheim, Region IX administrator of the U.S. Dept. of Labor, OSHA Division.

May 11, 2001

Dwindling hotel rates persist in 2000

Notwithstanding a 5.3 percent rise in visitor arrivals in calendar year 2000, CNMI tourism industry once again faced the nagging problem of falling average hotel daily rates last year. Figures submitted by the Department of Commerce showed that average hotel daily rates in 2000 declined by 11 percent from an average of $99 a year ago to an average of only $88 in 2000. It marked the third consecutive double-digit decline of average hotel daily rates in the CNMI. The fall on hotel room rates started in the first quarter of 2000 as it fell to $91 in the first three months of the year.

Revenues from travel sector to reach $200M in 5 years

The government remains confident the islands' tourism industry will pump up revenues by at least $200 million in five years due to the anticipated success of the programs that will be carried out by the Strategic Economic Development Council. A report prepared by the Office of the Governor disclosed that revenues generated from the tourism industry are projected to reach $200 million by 2005. Following projections that visitor arrivals to the Northern Marianas will reach 810,000 in five years, the CNMI government is planning to develop 900 new tourist hotel rooms by 2004.

Taste of the Marianas gets cookin'

The first weekend of the 14th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden got cookin' last Saturday, May 5, with 15 vendors serving up delectable dishes and last year's hotdog eating champ returning to reclaim his title.

"Last weekend's kick-off was a solid start to what we hope will be another great month of Taste of the Marianas," said Community Projects manager Martin Duenas of the Marianas Visitors Authority. "Whether you're looking for a quick dinner or a chance to catch up with friends, we encourage everyone to make the festival a part of their May Tourism Month celebration."

Festivities this Saturday, May 12, will feature the Pie-eating Competition at 8pm. Participants may register on site on a first-come, first-serve basis. The night's entertainment will include Green Meadow School, Koblerville Umang Glee Club, CAB Dancers, Alan la, W.S.R. Elementary MY WAVE Club, Sisters Forever, and Latte Vibe.

"Taste," as called by locals, will continue every Saturday evening beginning at 6pm throughout the month at American Memorial Park. Local hotels and restaurants offer fine fare at a reasonable fare, with most dinner items at $6 or less. Throughout the evening, live entertainment was offered on the main stage while secondary entertainment and competitions will take place at the secondary stage.

Last Saturday, Simon Jed returned to the hotdog eating competition for competitors under age 18 to win first prize for the second year in a row, followed by Darwin Maura and Ju Won Jung. The three walked away three hotdogs full and $50, $30, and $20 richer, respectively, for their efforts.

Not to be outdone, 10 adult competitors lined up an hour later for their chance at fame and fast cash. Walking away with the same prize package were Rob Epley of Saipan, Hyuk Kweon of Korea, and Gyu Hyung of Korea.

The rest of the month will feature the Bartenders' Cocktail Competition on May 19, while the Chefs' Competition on May 26 will pit hotel junior chefs in a cook-off highlighting a select cut of Certified Angus Beef and local ingredients. Arts and crafts will also be on sale each evening. ***(MVA)***

Police outline safety guidelines for tourists

To ensure everybody's safety, acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro is urging all visitors and tourists to observe the following safety tips:

■ Be cautious of car break-ins and thefts. Tourist sites and beaches are being targeted for car break-ins. Never leave anything of value in the trunk of your car, on the seat of your car, on the console, under the seats, etc.

■ Downtown and hotel areas are also targeted for purse snatching. Store your passport and valuable items in the hotel's safe.

Majority of major crimes committed in the CNMI are being blamed on drugs, specifically crystal methamphetamine, the drug commonly referred to as "ice." One of the Ogumoro's primary goals is to combat the rampant distribution of drugs within the community.

He has ordered the Drug Enforcement Task Force to step up their anti-drug campaign. Drug investigations and proper evidence gathering should lead to the successful prosecution of drug offenders.

Ogumoro calls on all law enforcement personnel in the CNMI and the community to work together to rid the CNMI of its drug problems. ***(DPS)***

Falun Gong to hold motorcade for 13th World Falun Dafa Day

May 13 is the 13th "World Falun Dafa Day," which also marks the 20th anniversary of the introduction of Falun Dafa to the public as well as the 61st birthday of Li Hongzhi, the founder of Falun Gong. On that day, Falun Gong practitioners all over the world will celebrate the occasion with exercises demonstration and truth-clarification at multiple sites, among other activities.

On Saipan, the Falun Gong will have a motorcade that will start at the parking lot of the American Memorial Park at 9:30am, with 12 vehicles participating. The route starts from AMP, will go straight to Middle Road and then head north, all the way to Banzai Cliff. Falun Gong practitioners will then demonstrate practical exercises, introduce Dafa, and perform truth-clarifications at the site until around 12:30pm. The group will then proceed to the Lindexuan Restaurant next to 99 Cents Supermarket on Middle Road for lunch.

The motorcade will resume around 2pm, traveling south along Middle Road and then will make a brief stopover at the area opposite the Modern Office Supply in San Jose. Falun Gong practitioners will again demonstrate and introduce their exercises to the public.

Around 4pm the motorcade will travel along Beach Road toward to Pacific Island Club and then head back to Garapan, ending up in the home of Falun Dafa, opposite the Bank of Saipan and next to the Family Building/Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The Saipan Falun Dafa Association promises to strictly obey all traffic rules throughout the motorcade and coordinate all the vehicles in the group. It is requesting the assistance of Department of Public Safety, however, to help channel the traffic when the motorcade starts at 9:30am from the parking lot of the American Memorial Park. ***(PR)***

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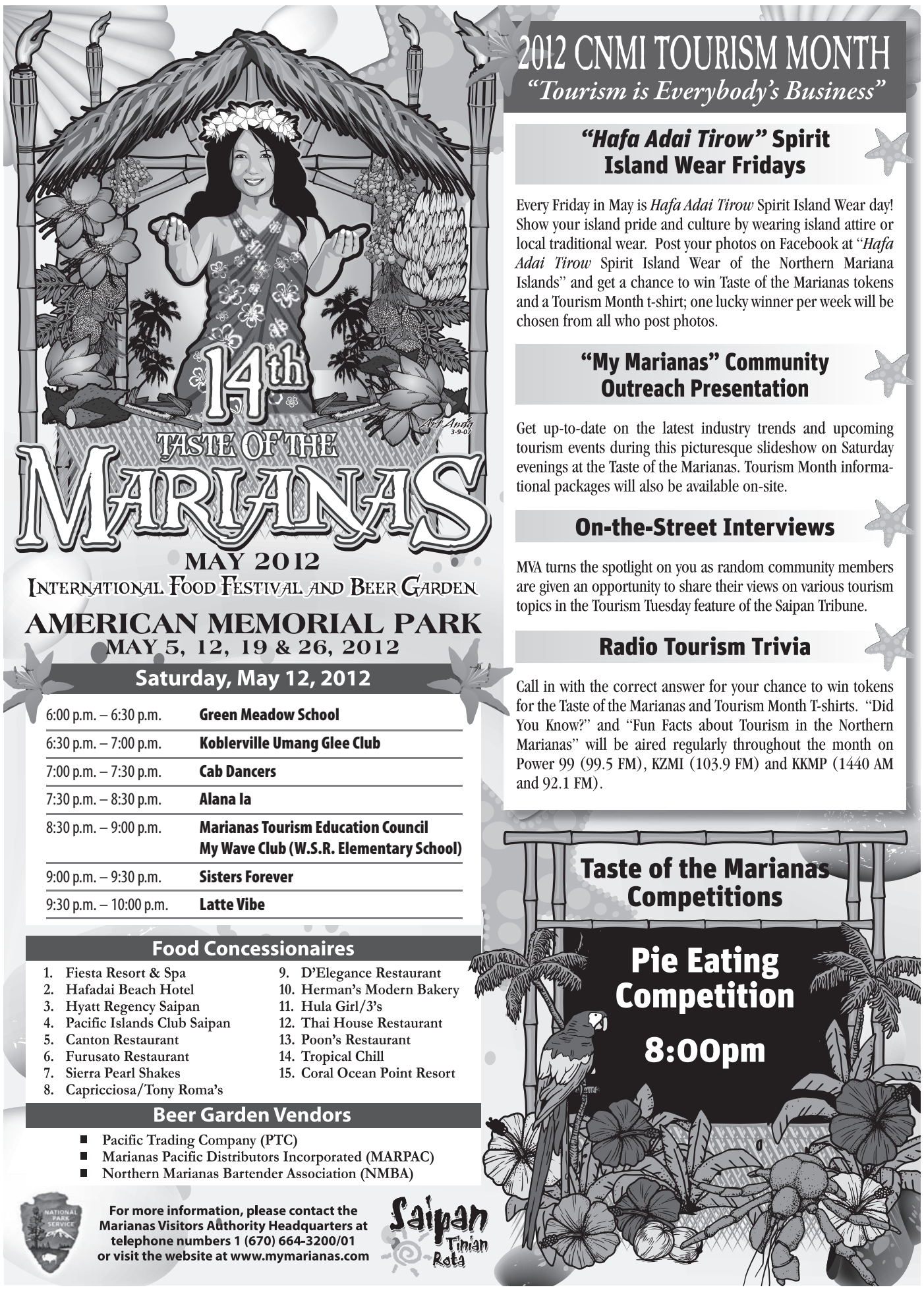
14th
Taste of the
Marianas
MAY 2012
International Food Festival and Beer Garden
AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
MAY 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2012
Saturday, May 12, 2012
6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Green Meadow School
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Koblerville Umang Glee Club
7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Cab Dancers
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Alana la
8:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Marianas Tourism Education Council
My Wave Club (W.S.R. Elementary School)
9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Sisters Forever
9:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Latte Vibe
Food Concessionaires
1. Fiesta Resort & Spa
2. Hafadai Beach Hotel
3. Hyatt Regency Saipan
4. Pacific Islands Club Saipan
5. Canton Restaurant
6. Furusato Restaurant
7. Sierra Pearl Shakes
8. Capricciosa/Tony Roma's
9. D'Elegance Restaurant
10. Herman's Modern Bakery
11. Hula Girl/3's
12. Thai House Restaurant
13. Poon's Restaurant
14. Tropical Chill
15. Coral Ocean Point Resort
Beer Garden Vendors
Pacific Trading Company (PTC)
Marianas Pacific Distributors Incorporated (MARPAC)
Northern Marianas Bartender Association (NMBA)
For more information, please contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Headquarters at telephone numbers 1 (670) 664-3200/01 or visit the website at www.mymarianas.com
Saipan Tinian Rota
2012 CNMI TOURISM MONTH
"Tourism is Everybody's Business"
"Hafa Adai Tirow" Spirit Island Wear Fridays
Every Friday in May is Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear day! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Post your photos on Facebook at "Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear of the Northern Mariana Islands" and get a chance to win Taste of the Marianas tokens and a Tourism Month t-shirt; one lucky winner per week will be chosen from all who post photos.
"My Marianas" Community Outreach Presentation
Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas. Tourism Month informational packages will also be available on-site.
On-the-Street Interviews
MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics in the Tourism Tuesday feature of the Saipan Tribune.
Radio Tourism Trivia
Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did You Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (99.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and KKMP (1440 AM and 92.1 FM).
Taste of the Marianas Competitions
Pie Eating Competition
8:00pm

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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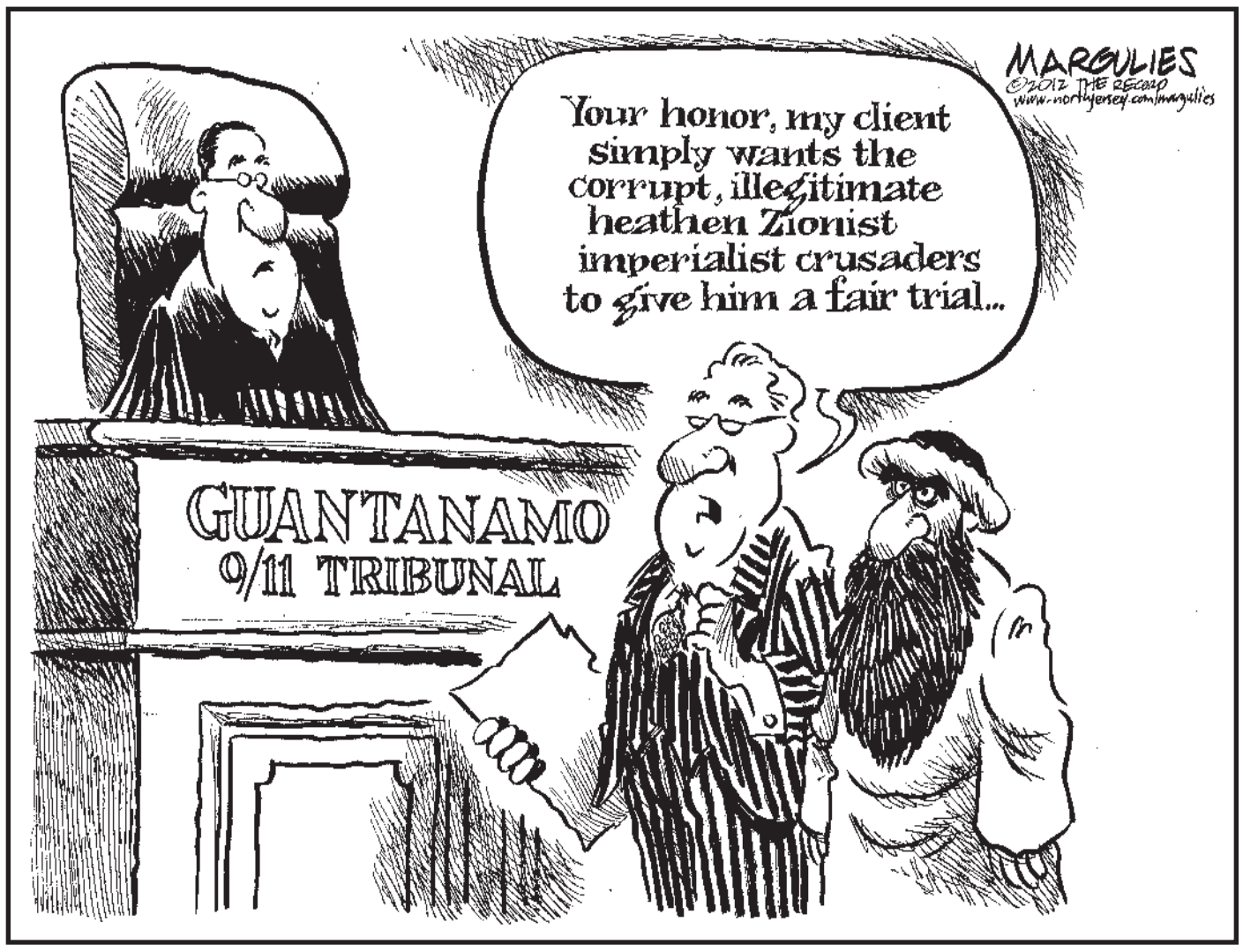
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9/11 TRIBUNAL

Mother's Day a painful reminder of broken immigration system

By MEE MOUA
The Progressive Media Project

Mee Moua is the president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center. She wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive *magazine*.

Mother's Day has always been one of my favorite holidays. For my family, it is a time to celebrate and honor motherhood—my mother, grandmother and mother-in-law. Now I'm a mom to three amazing children. Unfortunately, my mother-in-law passed away and our family relocated. So, this year for the first time I will be the only mother to be celebrated and to experience the tender Mother's Day moments with my children.

As much as I love spending Mother's Day with my kids, it breaks my heart that there are many mothers around the world who aren't able to share special moments with their children that day.

Today, there are more than 4 million close family members of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents who are waiting to be reunited with their loved ones in the United States.

Asian-Americans are the most likely to have family members caught up in the visa backlogs. Nearly two-thirds of Asian-Americans are foreign-born—the highest percentage of any major ethnic group. With so many close loved ones overseas, Asian-Americans rely on family sponsorship to keep their family units intact.

Although Asian-Americans comprise 6 percent of the U.S. population, we sponsor more than one-third of all family-based immigrants, and nearly half of family members in the visa backlogs are relatives of Asian-Americans.

These backlogs have a real and disturbing impact. U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents must live without the love and support of their spouses, children grow up without one or both parents for years and the elderly live without the support of family during a period when they need them the most.

For many moms, Mother's Day is a constant reminder of how broken our immigration system is. They don't get to enjoy their special day surrounded by the laughter of their children.

It's cruel that after all of these years we still haven't achieved comprehensive immigration reform. I urge our congressional leaders to address our immigration system right away so we can stay true to our heritage as a nation of immigrants.

By next Mother's Day, let's reunite millions of families so they can finally enjoy this holiday.

Mother dearest

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Earlier this year, we visited my 91-year-old mother as she independently sleeps her sunset years on the eighth floor of the Aala apartments in Honolulu, cared for by a son and a daughter, and the more than cursory attention of a grandchild.

Mother traces her upbringing around pre-World War II Filipino luminaries of the likes of the Quezons and the Ablans, and later, the Marcoses, so she has a habit of hob-knobbing with folks in high places. She is forever enshrined in Honolulu Pinoy memory as the lady who donated her hard-earned $100 to kick-start the fundraising for what is now the Filipino Community Center in Oahu.

Mother dearest, Mommie dearest, Mother fairest are a few book titles around extolling and chastising personae who significantly played the role to their not-always-grateful offspring. Our title takes a different slant. Instead of focusing on the Mom, we glance over to the brood.

One of the exercises in our oral English class is for the students to talk about a subject they are familiar with—themselves. *Zhongwen* (Chinese) focuses on social harmony and thereby tends to be general, abstract, polite, and cautious. *Yingwen* (English) on the other hand insists on what is true and real, grounded on the concrete and verifiable. Or, at least, that's where the two languages are at in their current state of evolution.

My intro at the start of the semester is, to an irreverent HS classmate who reads my stuff, high-falutin'. Not totally inaccurate, but we are not offended by it for we account to the truth of what we say. Our opening goes: "I am a child of the universe, a citizen of the world. I was born a unique and unrepeatable gift of human life into history. There has not been one like me before, and there will never be another one like me ever again."

In a culture given to moderation as a virtue, the above sounds extreme, more so when I look 30 folks in the eye and point at each of them saying, "This is also true of you and you and you!"

I then take them back to their process of conception and how each is a 200-million-odd winner of the biggest lottery of their life, and it is not a question of proving themselves that is the issue, but how to live out gloriously the gift of creature-li-ness they were born with. "This is the life I have. I can choose this life or waste it away. This is the life I have," we chant.

Other than the girls' expected giggle over our feeble attempt at "sperm" and "ovum" in Chinese, we usually get blank stares of disbelief. They are too trained to think that they have yet to pass a test in order to live an abundant and meaningful life rather than being born with the choice to do so!

In our first attempt at personal introductions as a speaking exercise, a litany of self-effacing generalities issues. Nine weeks later, the struggling newly bilinguals lay out their intro: "Let me tell you who I am, where I came from and where I am going," they say.

We've come a long way, baby!

The American Chamber of Commerce has successfully exported Mothers' Day into China's calendar, replete with chocolates and greenhoused roses. Heretofore, mothering has been a communal task of care and nurturing so "mother dear" as a focus is only now taking root, more to wean the mother away from breastfeeding into homogenized bottles from Australia than to celebrate the mothering job. The original impulse for the day, of course, was the recognition of the growing dynamic of the young, but alas, it has since been supplanted with the dare to purchase the latest tight-fitting Levis for grandma at 50!

We play with the "C"s to get at the context we usually set when talking about our lives. "Cause" comes naturally; we bloom from the stock that breeds us. Royalty used this to justify privilege in the past; "inalienable right" is the constitutional use.

"Chance" is the big thing in China, relying on being "the right person, in the right place, at the right time" as the sought-after state of being. Wishing someone "good luck" and "good fortune" are holiday wishes, invoking assistance from ancestral spirits in the process. Religion as opiate of the people is true when a symbol system like the *bagua* (yin-yang with the eight variations of the three stripes) moves over to the realm of superstition and it is this "gambling" instinct (placement by chance) that the casino-obsessed CNMI wishes to exploit.

Our orientation, free, liberated, and democratic is on "Choice." Mother taught that we choose to relate to the vagaries of birth, the experience of the journey, and the vicissitudes of tomorrow. Choice is the determining factor in the appropriation of the given-ness of our lives, even if we cannot control the outcome of endeavors.

I was newly 20 when only mother (Papa and siblings were 12 hours away from Manila) saw me off a U.S. President Line on a 20-day sail to SF in the '60s. She did not say much; she had shown enough in 20 years. Twenty days later, in an Oakland room overlooking the Bay upon my arrival, I finally broke down and cried.

A Canadian-Chinese colleague opines that teaching any subject is but my excuse for getting students to reflect and appropriate their lives. My sister reports that there's a smile on my mother's face when she sleeps! I smile with her today.

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When a picture tells a story

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Today I'm serving a slice of Americana. One of America's most famous artists was Norman Rockwell, a staple of U.S. media, whose published paintings first saw press in 1916 and kept going until, I believe, sometime in the 1960s. Although he passed away in 1978 he's still a household name.

Rockwell's paintings were often featured as cover art on the Saturday Evening Post magazine. He did 322 such paintings, and I think that's the work he is most widely known for. He did a lot of homey, small-town sort of paintings, capturing the golden glow of American's hometown life.

I'm not art savvy. But I've noticed a couple of things about Rockwell's works. For one thing, they are very memorable. People who saw a Rockwell painting 30 years ago can often recall it right away if you mention it.

Which leads me to the other thing: Many of his paintings tell a story. Or, maybe I should say the paintings don't really tell a story on their own, but the people and the situations they depict trigger our minds to cast a story from what we see.

After all, the only thing more potent than telling a story is trigging someone to tell it to themselves. The hook runs deepest when it grows from within.

For example, one of his most famous works is "The Runaway," done in 1958. It shows the backs of two customers seated at a diner counter. And it's quite a contrast: There's a burly, broad-shouldered state trooper atop one stool, and his bulk dwarfs the diminutive stature of a little kid sitting on the stool next to him.

But these two opposites have common ground, since their heads are turned towards each other. If a conversation hasn't started, it's just about to.

Underneath the kid's stool, haphazardly placed, is a hobo-style travel kit consisting of a few small belongings tied inside a bandana which is lashed to the end of a stick.

Our minds spin a narrative at this point: The kid has run away from home. The trooper will offer sympathetic counsel which will inspire the kid to return to his family.

Many Americans can immediately recall that painting from memory if you describe it. And they're getting their memories refreshed since the painting was in the news this week.

As it turns out, the scene for "The Runaway" was first carefully staged, posed, and photographed. Rockwell then based his painting on the photograph. It became a topic for newspapers because Richard Clemens Jr., the Massachusetts state trooper who posed in the photo, passed away on May 6 at the age of 83.

Until that story caught my eye I had just assumed that artists did their illustrations straight from the mind's eye. But I know better now. Not that it really matters. Still, it's interesting to get a glimpse behind the veil to see how things really get done.

Modern times have further blurred the difference between photos and paintings. My photo editing software has a feature that converts photos into images that look like they were painted. I knew a guy who had a business at a small airport doing just that. His customers were pilots who would bring in photos of their flying adventures, and the guy would push a few keys on the computer, convert the photo into what looked like a painting, then print it on canvas, and then frame it. So it wasn't really a photo. And it wasn't really a painting. But it was really $60, and the customers I talked to were happy with the results.

Even photos themselves can be a bit murky. Several famous WWII photographs are said to have been posed. So, do they depict truth, or fiction? I don't have an opinion, but I suspect that people sympathetic to photo's concept would say the pose was legitimate and necessary journalistic license, while those in the unsympathetic camp might offer a different take.

Anyway, however we get there, the power of suggestive narrative is very strong. In fact, I think it's even stronger today that it used to be, since modern media can propagate stuff globally for nearly zero cost.

Speaking of propagating stuff, I'll post a link to "The Runaway" on my website.

I have a couple of Norman Rockwell books stashed away. Whenever I re-encounter them it's a good excuse to brew a pot of coffee and thumb through the pictures. There are probably millions of other people in the same camp. So whether you fancy yourself a runaway or not, I guess in some ways you really can go back home, at least for a visit.

Meritocracy, mediocrity, bankruptcy

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The human brain is a jelly-like tissue, complicated in all its form and substance, wrapped inside our skull for, if I may bravely risk the unusual, "daily use." But it is usually torn between simple intuition and the more complex work of figuring out the unintended consequences of any policy. The latter is a mounting problem on the islands among the elected elite.

Dizzying? Yes!

Sobering? No!

Perhaps we're all worn out by bad tidings where we juggle the same figures hoping for different results. The only realistic answer (after each juggle) is uncertainty. We wish it were the good old days when life was simple. We wish and search for the contentment we once knew like the back of our hands. We wish that most folks here were gainfully employed full-time, capable of meeting familial obligations as happy campers. But this is pure wishful thinking to ease our troubled minds.

Meanwhile, we try to forcibly swallow the legacy of depravity handed to us by disoriented people at the helm, inebriated with borrowed power from governance.

The NMI has slowly devolved from "meritocracy" to "mediocrity" and now to "bankruptcy." The dizzying degradation of the quality of life elicits frustration and anger from a community that now despises the honeyed words of politicians who say that with their help you can have your cake and eat it too. Perhaps they are so out of touch with reality as to fail perceiving that we've ripped and shredded their game plans since years ago.

I'm trying to muster the courage to admire their resiliency in irrelevancy. Admirable, though, the suspect biblical quality in their adolescent attitude that must have hailed from Judas Escariot.

Truth be told, we are right in the middle of a prolonged and protracted messy economic calm before the vicious and fatal superstorm pummels the entire archipelago. We're right in the eye of the storm. Be prepared for such eventuality. *A`Saina!*

Dealing with pocketbook pain

My constantly revisiting the dire need for a socio-economic plan didn't spin out of a vacuum. Take a quick glimpse at huge jobs destruction in private industries, prohibitive cost of utilities that forced the closure of a lot of small businesses, the huge revenue plunge, skyrocketing price of gasoline, the recent increase in home foreclosures and more are lined up in the horizon to meet the same fate, prohibitive cost of healthcare, and a woefully unhealthy economy where governance's only sentiment of certainty is uncertainty.

Sadly, some six years ago I was enthusiastically optimistic that the administration's agenda on "wealth and job creation" would rescue or quell any major shift, specifically the drain in investments. In fact, there was an air of bullishness from this group at the beginning of 2006.

Somehow, this concept was dropped when the administration decided to be confrontational with the feds. Sure, there were legitimate issues in its self-government lawsuit. But arrogance, rather than the more beneficial paradigm of fostering synergistic working relationships, predominated. Since then, everything took a nosedive as leadership quizzes how it got stuck in the mud of intransigence. It was a reckless turn that elicited the same reaction from across the Pacific Divide.

Faced with declining profits and uncertainty in local and federal regulatory climates, most foreign-owned businesses took to the jetways to places where they could turn in appreciable profits in their investments. We lost the once growth-bound business climate that came to a grinding halt. Revenues took a huge plunge and will continue declining as we crash into fiscal disaster.

We begin quizzing where this sinking canoe is headed as politicians, inebriated with power, engage in dismissive disposition of matters of state. Is there room for hope in the near-term or shall we coalesce and acquiesce with the elected elite and just let conditions drown in the deep sea of poverty? How much longer must governance endure unsolicited pocketbook pain? Hello, anybody home?

Taking stock of policies

We haven't done our due diligence to determine what policies encourage or stifle business expansion, renovation, and investments. Without this information, we'd be second-guessing our future where ad hoc planning takes precedence over the benefit of the long thoughtful process. We ignore the fact that even a fish has a head, body, and tail. It swims forward, never backward.

Too, there are federal policies that have definitely worked against "wealth and jobs creation" to which both the administration and our Washington Office seem woefully quiet. But then this is the net result of political differences that have been given greater prominence over the fiduciary duties of the elected and appointed elites. Misguided!

Indeed, we've used ARRA funds to perk up wealth and jobs creation. But government doesn't create jobs other than temporary employment. In other words, when projects are completed, so too are temporary jobs. In short, government doesn't create lasting jobs. This is the purview of private industries.

Must establish true partnership

I've spent time digging why the largest group of businesses left the island. The quick assertion is simple: "It's no longer profitable doing business here." It is for this reason that I insist that we review our policies to see which ones did nothing but force businessmen to think with their feet. If we have to retain the services of business people with investment and financing credentials, then let's do it.

We've seen the growth and subsequent serious contraction of businesses in the various states throughout the country. They've moved to states where taxes are low, regulations are few and positive, proactive state governments that assist with basic needs; and the enthusiasm between investors, state and private industries' leaders to meet and ensure getting off on the right foot. Have we done something solid in this fashion to private industries here or did we just dismiss them with the usual view of "sink or swim"?

The non-existent working relationship between private industries and the local government is a tale of indifference by the latter. If leadership is supposed to spearhead economic recovery, perhaps leadership exists only in a vacuum, much to the dismay of what's left in the private sector. The word of mouth travels quickly and this is especially true in business centers in nearby Japan and Asia. If leadership isn't so keen, then we beg that you don't drag the folks in the villages down with your indecision and inaction. Step aside and let those poised to lead do so, forthwith!

■■■

Buddy Magoo thinks Kilili would run into a setback this election.

"He ran against people with real credentials and came out with a landslide victory," his friend reminded him.

"Oh, yeah, no? He was strong and he has this, what do they call it, *kuaresma*? (he meant charisma)," quizzed my Buddy Magoo.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nothing wrong with Article 12

There is nothing wrong with Article 12. The only problem with it is the definition of Northern Marianas decent and the lease terms. But other than that, leave it alone.

And if the government will allow non-NMDs to vote on this issue, then I feel that our constitutional rights will be invaded and it is unfair for the people of the CNMI. Tell me, is there any place or foreign country that will allow you to do the same? Invade their rights to make decision on matters that protect their assets?

Does the U.S. government allow our congressional delegate to vote? If you say I'm wrong, prove it.

Article 12 is there to protect our traditional rights to our land. Do not let others invade our right to protect our assets for our children. It is the only thing left from our ancestors. Let us decide what to do with it ourselves.

I also know in American history that American Indians fought to protect their land. Look at what happened to the Indians.

So, if you agree, help me and support my opinion, and help direct our local leaders to take action on this. Article 12 didn't affect the investors before when the economy was booming. Why should it affect them now?

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

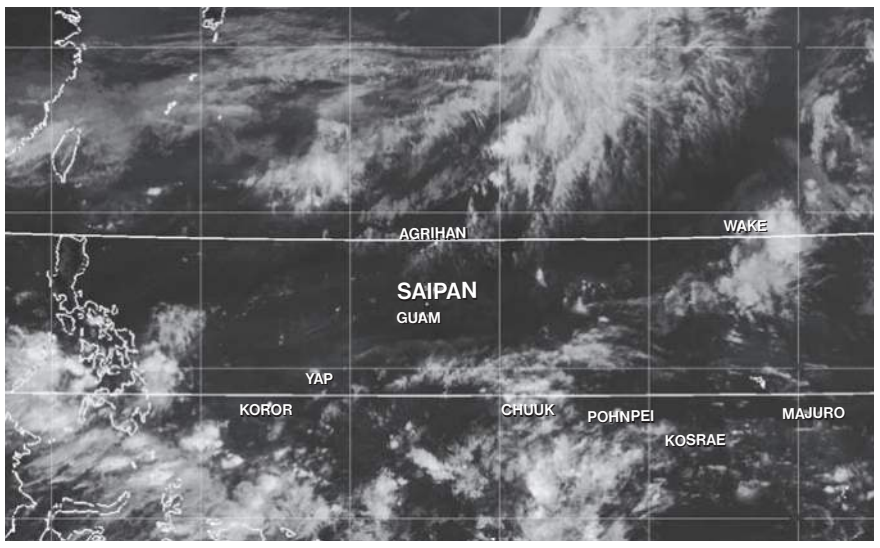
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲88	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲63	▼58
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼58
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼79
Honolulu	Sunny	▲82	▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼45
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲62	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼72
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼48
Osaka	Windy	▲63	▼52
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼52
Pusan	Windy	▲62	▼54
Rome	Sunny	▲81	▼61
Salem	Windy	▲64	▼39
San Francisco	Sunny	▲72	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼56
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼53
Washington, DC	Windy	▲69	▼51

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergent southwest winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms around and west of Iwo To island between 22N and 25N from 130E to 143E and west of Minami Tori Shima within 150 miles of a line from 25N154E to 20N144E. A near equatorial trough south of Koror runs from 7N130E to EQ139E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found southwest of the trough. A surface trough north of Chuuk runs from 7N145E to 11N156E. This trough and convergent south winds south it are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms around Chuuk and west of Pohnpei between the equator and 11N from 147E to 158E. The surface trough continues northeastward from 11N156E to 22N168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of this portion of the trough south and east of Wake Island within 80 miles of a line from 14N161E to 16N167E to 20N169E. An upper-level low is centered northeast of Wake Island at 23N173E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located northeast of Wake Island between 19N and 25N from 171E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:23 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
11:36 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:06 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:39 PM	10:36 AM
Saturday		11:32 AM
Sunday	12:24 AM	12:25 PM
Monday	1:04 AM	1:15 PM
Tuesday	1:43 AM	2:04 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In defense of ICS

I have the highest regard for blogger/activist Wendy Doromol and usually strongly support her causes, but in the case of the ICS contract with the Commonwealth Health Corporation, I think she happens to be wrong. See http://www.unheardnomore.blogspot.com/2012/05/ics-leaves-cnmi.html. It's all a question of what kind of spin is put on things, and who one thinks has more credibility.

The public perception, thanks in large part to the media coverage, is that ICS, which is trying to work out a contract with CHC for management services, is a money-hungry, illegitimate fraud. Much has been made of its proposed fees, its lack of documentation, the failure to follow procurement regulations, etc., etc.

The fact that 23 doctors at CHC have publicly stated that ICS' assistance is so critical to the well-being of the hospital that they will resign if a contract with ICS is not honored, though it made headlines, does not seem to carry any weight in the controversy.

Yet who would know better whether ICS can help CHC? The CNMI Office of the Attorney General, which appears to be doing every thing in its power to derail the contract, or the doctors who work at CHC, who have met with ICS personnel, and who, I've been told personally, have already been helped by suggestions and advice proffered by ICS?

Based on a story in a local Idaho newspaper (see http://www.localnews8.com/news/30990052/detail.html), where ICS' Louis Kraml serves as CEO to the local hospital, Kraml came to the CNMI to see what kind of help CHC needed. Only after that did he and Dan Cochran, COO of the Idaho hospital, decide to form ICS. That would explain why they did not have readily available the many documents that the CNMI AG's office had demanded of them.

Kraml, moreover, has a reputation for turning rural hospitals around. From the May 2, 2012, issue of the *Blackfoot Morning News* of Blackfoot, Idaho: "When Kraml started at BMH [Bingham Memorial Hospital], 'the hospital was broke,' said Bingham County Commissioner Cleone Jolley. 'The hospital couldn't make payroll. Now the hospital is making money; the hospital has improved and it offers excellent care. He's done a lot for our hospital,' he said. 'He's done things that are best

See ICS on Next Page

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stealing or not?

Let's say you are a bagger boy or girl at Joeten. Some of our brightest young men and women are and they're learning how business works as well as how to be a good employee.

This morning you tell the boss that the Easter candy will sell faster if you put it right up front in the store. The boss agrees and tells you to move all the Easter candy to the front of the store. So while you're moving the big heavy boxes of Easter candy you get hungry and you decide to eat some of the candy. You know the boss will not approve of this so you hide it from him. To justify your eating the candy without permission, you only eat the broken pieces.

When you're full you continue to move those big heavy Easter candy boxes and you realize Sunday is Easter and that you will need Easter candy for the kids. So while you're moving those big heavy boxes of Easter candy to the front of the store where it belongs, you sneak a couple of boxes out to your car and hide them in the trunk. You justify this by telling yourself the boss doesn't pay you enough anyway.

Do you think eating the candy is stealing? Do you think taking the candy to your car is stealing? Let's change the names of two things in this story and see if you answer these questions the same way. Let's say the bagger boy or girl is our CNMI Legislature (the legal body as a whole, not individuals), the Easter candy is your retirement, and *you*, the taxpayers, are the boss. The Legislature told us that we *have* to put our money into retirement and take our money from our paychecks before we get what's left over. They said it would go into the Retirement Fund and we would benefit 20-plus years later. It started out OK, just like in our previous story, but then the Legislature started taking money out of the Fund. I'm sure some in our government justified this because, like the bagger boy or girl in our story, there was a need. Was taking money out of retirement that we were forced to put our money into in the first place right? No! So just like the bagger boy or girl stealing Easter candy in our story, the Legislature stole our retirement and now they want us to sacrifice again for their mistakes.

Government employees today still have retirement money being taken out of their paychecks every pay day, yet their money is not being put into the Retirement Fund. Instead, like the Easter candy stolen in our story, the employees' retirement money is being put into the trunk of the government and spent elsewhere. So I ask you again, is taking your money out of retirement and spent on the government stealing? Is taking government employees money for retirement and then *not* putting that money into the Retirement Fund stealing?

If you, like me, said yes, that it is stealing, then let's put a stop to it. How? It is really pretty easy. First we must all stick together and not let anyone cause us retirees to fight amongst ourselves. Second, we must push and pass a constitutional amendment that puts our Legislature on a strict part-time basis. Take the millions saved from that reduction in government expense and put it back where it belongs, in the Retirement Fund. And while we're at it, let's prevent this whole disaster from happening again by putting every elected official on a two-term limit. These simple measures will ensure that we the people are really the people who are served by our government. These simple measures will ensure that we eliminate career politicians who'd do anything (including stealing from our Retirement Fund) to get elected again. These simple measures cuts out the political bickering and infighting.

Michael Murphy
Capital Hill, Saipan

Thank you

Si Yu'us ma'asi' – Ghilisoow reemi Sens. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), and Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan). We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the leadership you have displayed in voting *against* Senate Legislative Initiative 17-10 that aimed to do away with Article 12, a lasting safeguard for the very little indigenous lands we have. Money does *not* define a people. Land does. Our people are not sleeping.

Esther Fejeran Sound
Christopher A. Concepcion
Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong
Lino M. Olopai
Pedro "Paduna" Deleon Guerrero
Herman "Ero" Guerrero
David C. Sablan
Citizens for Article XII

ICS

From Page 13

for business. Kraml has expertise to help a hospital,' said Jolley." See http://www.am-news.com/content/bmh-administrator-moonlighting.

It is said that Kraml seemed arrogant during interviews with the media. It is also said that he had not expected the skeptical reception he was given. Regardless of how he came to the CNMI, regardless of the seeming irregularities in the contract, regardless of his seeming uncooperativeness, the bottom line is that the professionals with whom Louis Kraml's ICS would be working find him credible, respect his knowledge and expertise, and want to work with him.

The CNMI will never get out of its slump if every entrepreneur who offers help is met with hostility, ridicule, criticism. We should welcome his/her assistance and, in turn, assist him/her in providing it to us. In this case, additionally, we should respect and support the professionals in our midst—the doctors upon whom our lives depend.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

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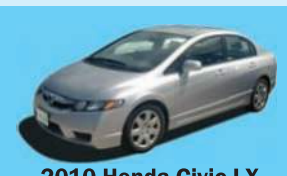
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Rota dude

To Paul "The Rota dude" Manglona: You have played the shadow shogun of Saipan for a long time and have mastered the slippery sly art of looking busy when you're not, keeping your personal options open at every decision you're part of and making a cushy career out of politics. Truth be known, though, you personally have shown no vision, or ability, to create a revenue model for the CNMI. That's the bottom line, and you've been part of one of the biggest economic disasters ever to befall a country or government. It is almost inconceivable to accept that you are a political leader behind one of the most embarrassing statistic in the CNMI's history, and that being that only one of the 40 bills that became law in 2011 was aimed at revenue generating and bringing new income to the failed CNMI business model.

Only one bill to make money when your island and government are falling apart by the day and more and more kids are being addicted to ice because of no jobs, a failing education system, and unmotivated parents who have been brainwashed into a cargo culture welfare state that has made them totally unproductive as they await food stamps. This social cancer has eaten away at the future of the islands ever being able to help themselves or stop this terminal social disease.

You, Rota dude, have been at the helm while multiple governors and different legislatures have come and gone over the past decades. You, though, have remained, so are more to blame than any of them individually. And to make it even more embarrassing and proof of your total lack of leadership, the one law out of 40 that did aim to make money, Public Law 17-58, was only a pitifully desperate weak incentive to give travel agencies some little tickle of motivation to bring tourists to the CNMI. And then charge this silly little 15 bucks per person as a landing charge if you're from non-U.S. destination. And this is supposed to aid the dead and dying MVA marketing plan to rebuild your *only* resource and sustainable industry? What a total failure in leadership!

Here's a lesson in Business Operations 101, Paul, that clearly you have *no* understanding of. If a CEO, board member, or any senior top management official in a company sees that their core product (in the CNMI's case, tourism) is not competitive anymore and the brand is losing relevance in the market due to failed marketing and distribution and ability to attract new customers (in the CNMI's case, due to MVA's ineffectiveness and low operational budget) then you take action, Rota dude. You fire, hire, retool, and increase MVA's operational war chest so you can get the right people to do the right job and get the word out in the right way. Allowing your marketing department to squander the CNMI's tourism brand away with stupid campaigns like Public Law 17-58 and Saipanda! Oh my God, how could anyone let them get away with that failed crappola. You're needed as a leader to step in and stop the bleeding and carnage and act! MVA needed, and needs, direction, vision, and money. But you didn't. You've sat back and played your silly little political games since the mid-'80s and are still barbecuing back on Rota as Rome burns. Forty laws and only one vague concept of how to save your economy in one whole year of politics! You would have been fired long ago if you worked for any company. No company would allow such incompetence and lack of leadership to prevail.

It's a sad legacy you leave, Paul. You have basically failed the island people and our children's future because of your lack of leadership. The slow moving burning lava of an economic volcano is consuming your island day by day, and there's no stopping it. Your family political model has failed, a model you have personally benefited from for over 25 years. Your system of government cannot be fixed by a mindset like yours, Rota dude, who run it and protect it. Logic tells you that you and your cronies won't fix it because if you fix it, then you lose the only thing that keeps you, them, and their families sucking on the government teat. So why should you fix it? Rome is burning, Rota dude, and on your watch!

Chris West
Los Angeles, Calif.

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A game called soccer

Editor's Note: Saipan Tribune *usually does not publish anonymous letters to the editor but we are making a rare exception in this case because of its universal message for all mothers as we celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday.*

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday after school, I have to drive my two girls to soccer practices. Every Saturdays, I have to drive them to their games. What is so rewarding about this is not about winning each game. It's not about seeing their team go up in the roster of champions. It's not even when I watch them playing out in the field, under the heat of the sun. For me, the most rewarding moment is driving them to their practices and games. Just the 15-minute drive, four times a week...enough for us to talk about almost anything.

"Hurry up, girls, we're gonna be late for your practice!" And my daughters would be dragging their cleats to get in the car. I expect them to pack their water bottles, put on their sunscreen, tie up their hairs (on a specific style, mind you!), bring a book, just in case. Soon as they're inside the car, we won't start the engine until they put on their seatbelts, fix up their mat and properly place their bags. Little ceremonies like these allow my girls to learn the value of discipline. That is, if they fail to accomplish any of these tasks before starting the car engine, it would mean further delays toward our destination.

While driving, I would hear them argue about anything... from the model of cars that pass by to the odd signs down the road. Of course, I serve as the judge as to who wins the argument. Added perk is hearing new words to add to our vocabulary. Like today, we have a new word, "lightning mcfee," referring to an overspeeding black car. We've had a great laugh on that one because my little girl meant "Lightning McQueen" and it just slipped out of her, she blurted it out without thinking. Her older sister was laughing her heart out on this one and my little girl laughed along.

The drive would end by stopping by a store. After a grueling day, we have to quench our thirst with water. And together the girls would say, "Water is cool," just like one of those commercials they've watched.

It ain't easy. Just like the game soccer, it would take a lot of effort just to win this game of motherhood. Just like the game of soccer, you have to give your daughter the trust they need that every single argument they come up with would be resolved by a sweet laugh. Just like soccer, the bond between a mother and her children can be established, even for 15 minutes, four times a week. So, for all the mothers out there who sacrificed so much more than I do for their children, I salute you. Life may treat us like a bouncing soccer ball, still we make everything possible for our children's happiness. Happy Mother's Day!

A Mother

Special Section

J.C. TENORIO ENTERPRISES

Joeten turns 63

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

What started off as a small mom-and-pop store has built itself to become the most successful chain of retail stores in the Commonwealth, revolutionizing the way people shopped through six decades and more.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, which operates the family-owned Joeten stores in Susupe, Garapan, Dandan, and Kagman, is celebrating 63 years of making a name and becoming a local landmark in the history of retail store business on the islands.

Its very first store—the Tenorio's Grocery Store—opened its doors on island in May 1949 in Chalan Kanoa under the ownership and management of the family patriarch, Jose C. Tenorio, and his wife Soledad.

> *"Although each Joeten store branch opened at different times, we still hold our celebration in May to mark the opening of the very first store that my grandparents built 63 years ago."*

It was Soledad who singlehandedly ran the operations of the store on the first floor of their humble abode, tending to customers as Jose worked for the Trust Territory government at that time.

The store's early years saw only limited selection of grocery items for its customers and the Tenorios saw the need to expand the store to meet a variety of needs of its clientele. Over time, they started bringing in imported products, including department store items from the U.S. mainland, Japan, Australia, and the Philippines.

Jose's drive and motivation, along with his close relationship with his loving wife, fueled what today is a family business empire story that is certainly incredible and awe-inspiring, said Frannie T. Demapan, marketing manager/buyer for J.C. Tenorio Enterprises.

"I think he would've been very proud and very grateful to the people because it's the people of the CNMI that made his dreams come true," Demapan said.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises now has four locations catering to both local and tourist shoppers and with all stores being run by younger generations of the Tenorio family after Jose passed away in 1993 followed by Soledad in 2008.

"Although each Joeten store branch opened at different times, we still hold our celebration in May to mark the opening of the very first store that my grandparents built 63 years ago," said Demapan.

All Joeten stores, most notably its main branch in Susupe, carries a wide selection of U.S. and local vegetables and fruits, as well as drinks and snacks imported from Japan, Australia, and the mainland. It gets its shipment of fresh produce, including all dairy products such as yogurt, every Thursday and Friday.

Joeten also offers both freshly cut and frozen meat and seafood and has a section devoted entirely for tourists who want to buy Saipan souvenir products like chocolates, coffee, magnets, keychains, plush dolls, and postcards as gifts for family and friends back home.

The Susupe branch exclusively has an array of department store items like clothing and shoes for men, women, teens, and children; house ware; towels and linens; school supplies; medicine and supplements; watches and electronics, among others.

Joeten stores, particularly in Garapan and Susupe, are also home to the latest additions in the Tenorio's line of companies: Borderline, All Star Sporting Goods, and The Athlete's Foot.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Besides its considerable presence in the community, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises also takes pride in its "very loyal and committed" employees, some of whom have worked for the company for decades, says Demapan.

"We even have one employee who's almost about to reach 50 years with Joeten," she disclosed. "That's part of the reason that our company still runs very successfully."

Giving back to the community that has shown them support through the years factored in considerably as well, added Demapan, who recounted that the success and accomplishments of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises and the rest of their businesses gave rise to their philanthropic arm, the Joeten Charitable Foundation. Through the foundation, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises has supported meaningful causes by making donations to the Marianas March Against Cancer, the American Red Cross NMI Chapter, and other programs that have a profound impact to the community.

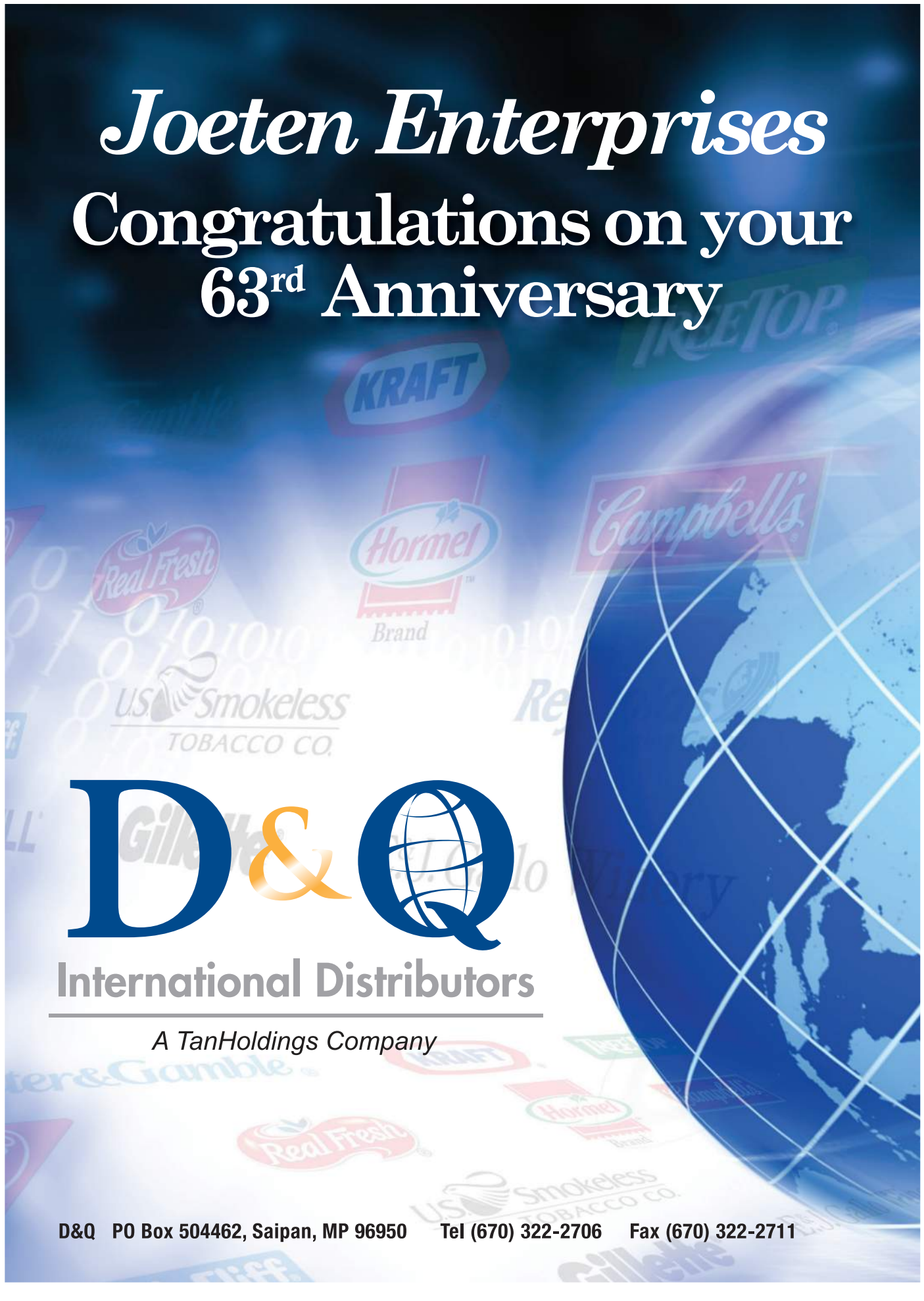
"We're very big supporters of the community. I think that because we always give, people come back because they want to support businesses that support important causes on our island," said Demapan.

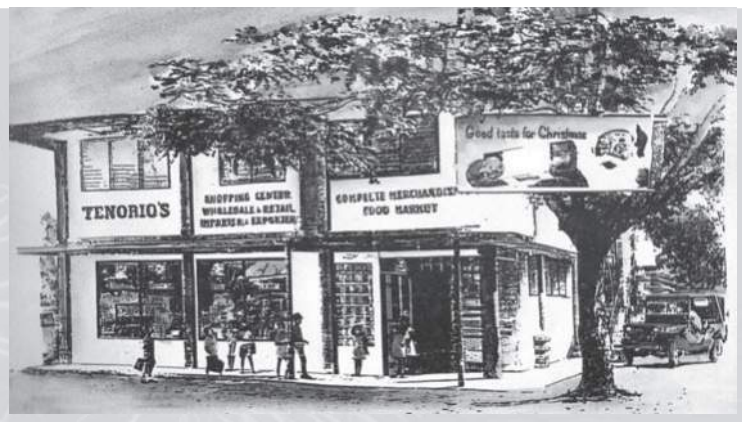
Despite being a big name in the industry, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises is not immune to the economic challenges facing the

See CELEBRATING on Next Page

CLARISSA V. DAVID

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises marketing manager/buyer Frannie T. Demapan and Joeten Susupe department store managers/buyers Dolly Muna and Debra Guerrero are flanked by other staffers at the main store on May 8, 2012.





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CELEBRATING

From Page 17

island, just like any other business. But Demapan said that with the help of its very solid accounting team, the company is able to weather through several financial crises.

"We're always trying to cut down on expenses but still keep the quality and service for our patrons," Demapan emphasized. "That's very important to us."

According to Demapan, most critical to the success of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises is a huge clientele base that they have nurtured through their 63 years.

"They're the main reason we're still here. A lot of businesses have closed down over the years and it's always shocking to me that we're celebrating our 63rd year. It may not be a monumental number like 75 or 100 years but slowly, we're going to reach that point because customers believe in our store and they believe in what the owners envisioned," she said.

> *Because we always give, people come back because they want to support businesses that support important causes on our island.*

ANNIVERSARY PROMOTIONS

As J.C. Tenorio Enterprises marks its 63rd anniversary, Demapan said they have lined up exciting promotions for their patrons, which will run from the beginning of the month up to the mid-part of June.

"I don't think there's any better way to say thank you to our customers than to give them sales and discounts. It's all for them," she said.

The anniversary festivities actually kicked off last May 4 with the cutting and distribution of a giant cake donated by Matson at the Susupe store, along with Foremost Coffee sampling. The next day, Micronesian Brokers also held a sampling for their products like Keebler cookies, NutriGrain health bars, and Sunkist orange juice. WSTCO also gave away samples of Rockstar energy drinks at the Susupe store.

Today from 4pm to 6pm, there will be free samples of Foremost Coffee at Joeten Hafa Adai in Garapan. Free samples of WSTCO's Rockstar will also be given away tomorrow from 9am to 12pm also in Garapan while samples of Marpac's Cordina Iced Wine Cooler will be made available in Susupe also on May 12 from 4pm to 6pm.

In celebration of Mother's

See CELEBRATING on Page 20

Ready to celebrate?

There's no better reason than a momentous occasion. At Ernst & Young, we couldn't be happier for

Joeten Enterprises, Inc.

on their 63rd Anniversary of excellent service and giving back to the community. We hope you'll join us in congratulating Joeten. Cheers!

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Joeten Susupe market managers, stockers, and butchers pose for a group photo outside the store on Tuesday.

Joeten Susupe supervisor George Moses, right, and store cashiers smile for the camera. CLARISSA V. DAVID

CELEBRATING

From Page 18

Day, each customer who spends $25 on any cosmetics or make-up products from May 11 to 12 will get a free Revlon cosmetics bag while supplies last. Only one bag is allowed per customer.

On Mother's Day, May 13, Joeten will give away a box of chocolate each to the first 150 mothers who visit the Susupe store between 10am and noon.

The following weekend, May 18 and 19, Joeten will have a two-day Mega Sale, coinciding with free samplings of Foremost Coffee in Dandan from 4pm to 6pm on May 18; Micronesian Brokers and WSTCO sampling in Susupe from 9am to noon in Susupe on May 19; and Kagman High School Culinary Arts Class from 10am to noon in Kagman also on May 19.

On May 25 to 28 or the last weekend of May will host the Memorial Day Weekend Sale. On May 25, there will be a Foremost Coffee sampling in Kagman from 4pm to 6pm. On May 26, WSTCO's Rockstar sampling in Garapan will be from 9am to noon while Gen-Pro's Moo chocolate milk sampling will be from 9am to noon in Susupe.

The anniversary celebration carries on until June as J.C. Tenorio Enterprises plans to hold Early Bird Sale on June 2 from 8am to noon, Sizzlin' Summer Sale on June 8 and 9, and a three-day Father's Day Sale from June 14 to 16.

Throughout all branches, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises will also be distributing pens and coolers while supplies last. 50-cent popcorn and hotdogs will also be sold at Aiko's snack bar every Saturday.

Besides store-based promotions, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises also has giveaways on their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/joetenstore, and has tied up with radio stations KKMP 92.1, Magic 100.3, and KZMI 103.9 for a weekly trivia game so that their listeners will have a chance to win $25 gift certificates.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises is also collaborating with its vendors for separate raffle promotions. D&Q will have the "Joeten's 63rd Anniversary $163.63 Shopping Spree" raffle on June 4 at 6pm while Coca-Cola will sponsor the "Spin it 2 Win It" Prize Wheel Sweepstakes on May 18, June 15, and July 13 from 4pm to 6pm.

"We joined with our vendors to get them into the store and help them sell their products and, at the same time, also celebrate our anniversary with us," said Demapan.

ONGOING AND FUTURE PLANS

Even after 63 years, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises continues to come up with small improvements to make one's shopping experience better at any Joeten store, according to Demapan.

In fact, the company has purchased new baskets and carts to replace old ones. Demapan said they are still in the process of acquiring more. "We're trying to slowly upgrade the store without too much expense."

The company also plans to install a new automatic sliding door at Joeten Susupe, as well as improved signages in Susupe, Garapan, and Dandan.

In line with its efforts to promote healthy living on island, Demapan said the Susupe store has already dedicated a health food section called "Healthy Living" wherein organic products, gluten-free and sugar-free products, and food products for those with diabetes can be found. Soon, a similar section will also be created in Garapan.

"We're trying to carry more organic products and promote healthy living on island because we're seeing more customers requesting certain types of products that are a little bit more expensive but much healthier," explained Demapan.

Noting the importance of caring for the environment, Joeten Susupe will also be selling large eco-bags for just $1.50. Also, shoppers who use eco-bags of any kind will get 5 cents off per eco-bag used for shopping at Joeten Susupe to encourage them to avoid using plastic bags.

"It's really a slow process encouraging people to use eco-bags instead of plastic bags because it's so hard to start a new habit. We only use tote bags when we're going to the beach or a party. It's not really ingrained in our culture yet to bring it to the supermarket. So we're slowly, over time, trying to do that," she said.

Demapan said that J.C. Tenorio Enterprises is grateful for the continued support of the community in the last 63 years.

"We value your business and support and we will also continue to give out support to the community through various events and programs. Even as we endure difficult times, we assure all our customers that we will carry on with the quality and service that they have been accustomed to. We look forward to 63 years and more of unrelenting patronage from them," she added.

Recognizing 63 Years of Quality and Service

Mobil Oil Mariana Island Inc. congratulates Joeten Enterprises Incorporated in celebrating their 63rd Anniversary. With your unwavering commitment to provide quality consumer goods and services, you remain to be an integral part of the continued progress in the communities of the Mariana Islands.
We wish you a future filled with the success of your endeavors.

JOETEN

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Joeten's longest-serving employees look back

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As J.C. Tenorio Enterprises marks its 63rd anniversary, the family-owned company pays tribute to its hardworking personnel whose dedication and commitment have become an integral part of the history of its chain of stores on Saipan.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises recently held a special gathering for its longest serving employees to recognize their contributions to the stores' successes. Here is a glimpse of some of these employees' thoughts on being a part of the Joeten family through the years.

SHERLIE CRUZ
Stock controller

A native of Lanao Del Norte province in the southern Philippines, Sherlie Cruz arrived on Saipan to start what would be her first overseas job assignment.

Cruz, who is employed by J.C. Tenorio Enterprises as a stock controller, has been with the company for the last 22 years and vividly recalls when she first set foot on island back on Jan. 8, 1990.

"Actually, I was just going to try to gain experience here on Saipan through the Joeten Store," said Cruz, whose last employment in the Philippines was with a clothing export and import business.

"I started helping out with merchandising and stocking in the Susupe branch and the mini-mart, which they used to have. When I came here, I thought it was very nice that they welcomed me. Now I'm hoping that this would be my last job," she added.

Cruz said that as an employer, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises fully trusts its staff "and trust is something I value and give back to them."

"What's more, because they trust you, they don't pass judgment on their staff based on hearsay. They listen to you and they observe you and I really like that about them," she said.

Besides her own husband and two children, Cruz said J.C. Tenorio Enterprises is her second family.

"There's teamwork and unity among everyone, so this is one family I wouldn't trade for the world," said Cruz.

DEO MANESE
Assistant comptroller

Deo Manese, who has been with J.C. Tenorio Enterprises for over two decades, has worked his way up the ladder to achieve what he has become with the company.

"As the assistant comptroller, I face challenges at work on a daily basis that you wouldn't realize the time that has passed by. You wake up one day and you realize that you've been with the company for 22 years," he said.

While all businesses have their own ups and downs, the greatest challenge at J.C. Tenorio Enterprises was to find accountants since the staff turnover in their department was high, according to Manese. Some would leave for greener pasture while others would exit to attend to family matters.

"For me, it's not always about the money," said Manese. "If you give a hundred percent of your time and energy to your job, then your employer will make sure to give it back."

Manese revealed, though, that he did try to leave the company twice, only because he thought he wasn't competent enough for the job.

"But I had to come back because I realized they needed and trust me," he said. "If you are an accountant, there is a certain element of trust and loyalty looked for in this job. With J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, you feel you're a member of the family so things can never go wrong."

It was also through the company that he met his wife, Eloisa, who now works as the chief accountant and office manager for Ace Hardware, an affiliate.

"I feel very proud of being a member of the Joeten family. The name itself bears significance in the CNMI. Everybody knows that J.C. Tenorio is a pioneering company in the islands," said Manese.

Although the economic difficulties also have had an impact on such a prominent name, Manese maintains that the company will endure the tough times and emerge stronger than ever with the support of the community.

"This economic situation will turn around one way or another and I believe Joeten will be there to see that happen. It will remain successful in the years ahead," he added.

DARLENE MACARANAS
Susupe market manager

When Darlene Macaranas started out with J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, she was only a 16-year-old high school student who wanted to work during summer break.

"The opportunity was there. I was hired to do the store's inventory. I climbed up my way and became a cashier, then supervisor, and now I am the manager for Susupe market and Aiko's," she said.

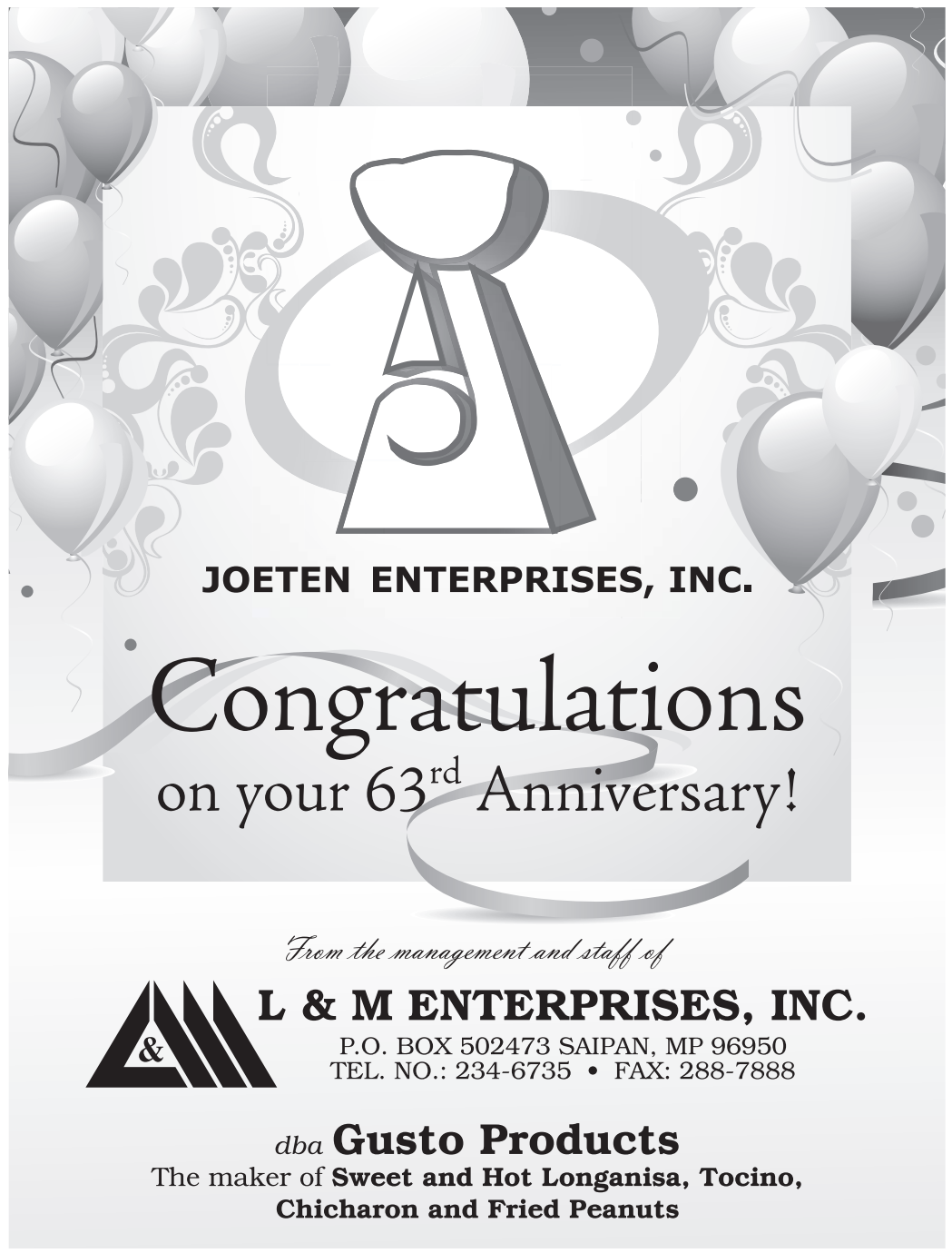
"Working for this locally and family-owned store was different back then," Macaranas recounted. "We were the first big store so it was busy all the time. Times have changed and through the years, the company expanded to serve more customers."

As market manager, Macaranas' favorite part of her job is getting to know the customers, especially those who are regulars at their store. "Since they frequent us, we already know what they like and what they look for. They come to me for special requests and orders and we give them that."

She noted that the company's excellent customer service and community involvement have earned them the respect of the public. "We always strive to meet their needs."

Macaranas, who has been with the company for over 40 of its 63 years, described her employment with Joeten as "very exciting and meaningful."

"I believe our 63rd anniversary is very special and as we celebrate this, we want to thank our customers for their patronage. I hope that we can serve them better in the years ahead so they'll keep coming back again and again," she added.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Deadline approaching for financial disclosure filing

This is to remind all individuals who may be required to file OPA Form EC-101, the Statement of Financial Interest, that the deadline for filing is May 31, 2012. The filing of this form, including a notary's verification, covers calendar year 2011 and is required by the Government Ethics Code (1 CMC §8501, *et seq*.).

Any person failing to comply with the financial disclosure requirements of this law is subject to financial and other penalties, including a $10 per day fine for any periods of delinquency.

The following individuals are required to file a Statement of Financial Interest:

- Each elected Commonwealth official.
- Each appointed Commonwealth or judicial officer, including department secretaries,
- Directors and their deputies, regular or acting members of boards, commissions and task forces.
- Each public employee who received additional compensation in calendar year 2011 either for professional services they may have rendered or as an independent contractor for any government agency of the Commonwealth.

You may obtain forms from several sources including the Office of the Public Auditor, located on Capital Hill at 1236 Yap Drive (phone 322-6481/6482), or you may download the required form from OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com.

Also, notary services needed in verifying the form are available at OPA free of charge.

For more information, visit or call the Office of the Public Auditor; send a facsimile to 322-7812 (the OPA facsimile phone); or contact OPA via e-mail at mail@opacnmi.com. You may also visit OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com for detailed information about filing requirements. ***(OPA)***

Project proposals sought to reduce marine debris

»$280K available to reduce source of land-based marine debris

SAN FRANCISCO—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking project proposals to reduce land-based trash at the source, thus preventing trash from entering coastal runoff and becoming marine debris.

The amount of funding available is approximately $280,000 and projects must occur in a coastal or estuarine watershed in U.S. EPA Region 9, which includes coastal areas of California, Hawaii, and the Pacific territories of Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. States, local governments, public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, U.S. territories or possessions, and interstate agencies are eligible and encouraged to apply.

ON THE NET

- http://www.epa.gov/region9/marine-debris/
- http://www.epa.gov/region9/strategicplan/islands.html
- http://www.epa.gov/region9/strategicplan/comm.html

The aim of the grant is to reduce marine debris from coastal watersheds with true source reduction practices, not with the more commonly used capture and removal practices such as inserting catch basin screens and enhancing street sweeping. Methods that businesses can use to facilitate true source reduction include creating mechanisms for product/packaging take-back, minimizing procurement of difficult-to-recycle goods, and 'incentivizing' reuse.

Proposals should demonstrate and promote the economic benefits of source reduction to business and government, inspire innovative local policies promoting litter prevention, and foster creative collaborative partnerships between local government, non-profits, and business. Proposals that principally support recycling, clean-up, treatment, trash capture/removal, plastic bag and/or polystyrene bans, or disposal activities will not be considered for funding.

Marine debris degrades estuarine, near shore, and open ocean habitats. It endangers marine and coastal wildlife, causes navigation hazards, results in economic losses to industry and governments, and threatens human health and safety. With up to 80 percent of marine debris coming from land-based sources, reducing what is generated upstream will result in less trash having to be captured and removed downstream.

Proposals are due on Friday, June 8, 2012, 5pm (PDT). EPA anticipates awarding one to three grants under this solicitation with project periods of up to three years. Applicants must demonstrate how they will provide the minimum non-federal match of 25 percent of the total cost of the proposal.

For more information and the full request for proposals, visit: http://www.epa.gov/region9/marine-debris/.

This grant will support the Region 9 Strategic Plan goal of reducing the accumulation of trash that contributes to marine debris. ***(EPA)***

Congratulations for all the hard work that has brought you to this profitable business milestone. We applaud your continuing efforts to provide our island home best and quality products and services, and wish you continued success in the years to come.

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MINA joins One Micronesia Campaign

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance has joined a first of its kind regional fundraising effort to support the Micronesia Challenge—The One Micronesia Campaign, a region-wide awareness and fundraising campaign that supports the conservation of shared resources throughout Micronesia. Participating islands are the CNMI, Guam, Pohnpei, Palau, Marshall Islands, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap.

All proceeds collected in the CNMI will go directly to conservation efforts within the CNMI. In turn, conservation successes in the CNMI will contribute to the preservation of nature across Micronesia.

Businesses throughout Micronesia can participate with the easy We Are One Box Program. The acrylic boxes, which are purchased by MINA, can be customized with your company's logo. Donation boxes are now placed at all Joeten Stores and Kagman Mobil station. MINA encourages community members to make their donations to the environment at any of these locations.

If you wish to be a participating sponsor, contact Sam Sablan at 233-REEF.

The Micronesia Challenge is a shared commitment to conserve 30 percent of near shore marine resources and 20 percent of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. ***(MINA)***

Business

EUROPE AT CROSSROADS

Splinter or unite?

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Union, a hope for peace that rose from the fires of World War II, paused Wednesday to honor its past and ponder its future—and how it can ensure it still has one in light of the anti-austerity anger expressed this week by voters in France and Greece.

May 9 is Europe Day, a commemoration of a key event that led to the creation of the modern EU. It was on this day in 1950 that French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman issued a declaration calling for an integrated Europe.

Tens of millions of Europeans had perished in twin cataclysms of World Wars I and II. At root, Schuman's dream was simple: He wanted an economic union, a sharing of strategic resources in Europe that would "make war not only unthinkable but materially impossible."

By that measure the project has been a resounding success. The EU has grown to 27 members and the economic union has grown ever deeper, including a common market and, for 17 countries, a shared currency. The interlocking interests have helped to shield the bloc from any possibility of war.

But on Sunday voters in France and Greece voted in droves against the strategy of harsh budget cuts leaders contend is necessary to preserve the economic union that is at the heart of the European Union.

The question then arises: Is the European dream in danger? Could it all come unstuck?

"The current situation is extremely fragile and extremely dangerous," said Zsolt Darvas, a research fellow at Bruegel, a Brussels-based economic think tank.

Greece's two major parties, both of which backed a drastic package of budget cuts in order to secure a desperately needed bailout loan, were so thumped by voters that even put together they would not command a majority in Parliament.

That's alarming because it raises the prospect of protracted political paralysis, in which market panic could trigger a Greek financial meltdown and possibly force the country out of the currency union. That would endanger the viability of the entire European project.

And what of the Franco-German cooperation that was key to the EU during its inception, and more recently instrumental in charting Europe's course through its crisis?

French voters ousted Nicolas Sarkozy as president on Sunday and replaced him with the Socialist Francois Hollande, a leader not at all committed to swallowing more doses of the EU's bitter austerity.

That raises questions about the continent's key alliance, since German Chancellor Angela Merkel is the staunchest champion of Europe's strategy of belt-tightening.

However, some see the unraveling of the Merkel-Sarkozy pairing as possibly a good thing.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US stocks fall on Europe doubts

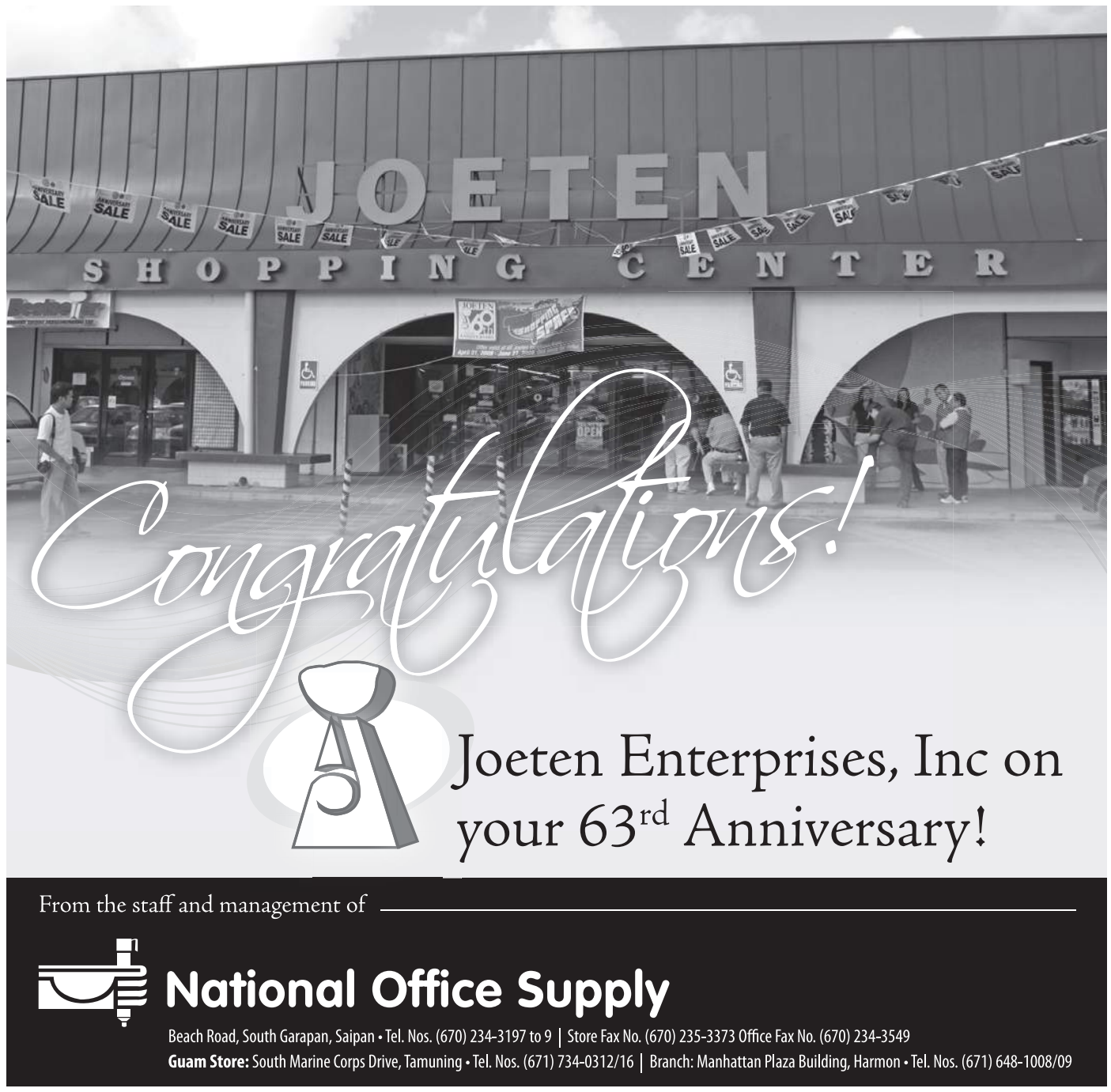
Stocks pitched down Wednesday in the United States as borrowing rates climbed for Spain and Italy, a sign that investors are losing confidence in those countries' finances. Spain's 10-year borrowing rate leapt to 6.06 percent from 5.70 percent early Tuesday. Many fear that Spain, strangled by high unemployment and a real estate collapse, could be the next nation to require financial rescue. The Dow Jones industrial average was down as much as 184 points before recovering about half of the loss. Still, the average has fallen for six consecutive days, its longest losing streak since last summer. ***(AP)***

China's Huawei hopes to make a name for itself

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Will Americans buy a Chinese smartphone? We're about to find out, as Huawei, one of the world's biggest phone makers, is planning a big push into U.S. cellphone stores. All four nationwide U.S. phone companies will carry Huawei smartphones this year, says Francis Hopkins, a Huawei spokesman. That's up from one right now—with AT&T. Only two Chinese companies are well known consumer brands in the U.S.: computer maker Lenovo, which entered the U.S. market by buying IBM's PC division, and Haier, an appliance maker with a German name.

News Corp 3Q beats Street despite probe costs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., the global media conglomerate under fire for phone hacking and alleged bribery in Britain, posted a 47 percent increase in third-quarter net income thanks to strong performances at its U.S. pay TV networks and movie studio. The results beat analyst expectations. The company also announced it would buy back another $6.1 billion worth of shares in the coming year—on top of the $3.9 billion worth it bought in the last 11 months—a move that should bolster News Corp.'s stock and assuage lingering fears that Murdoch might squander company cash on expensive acquisitions.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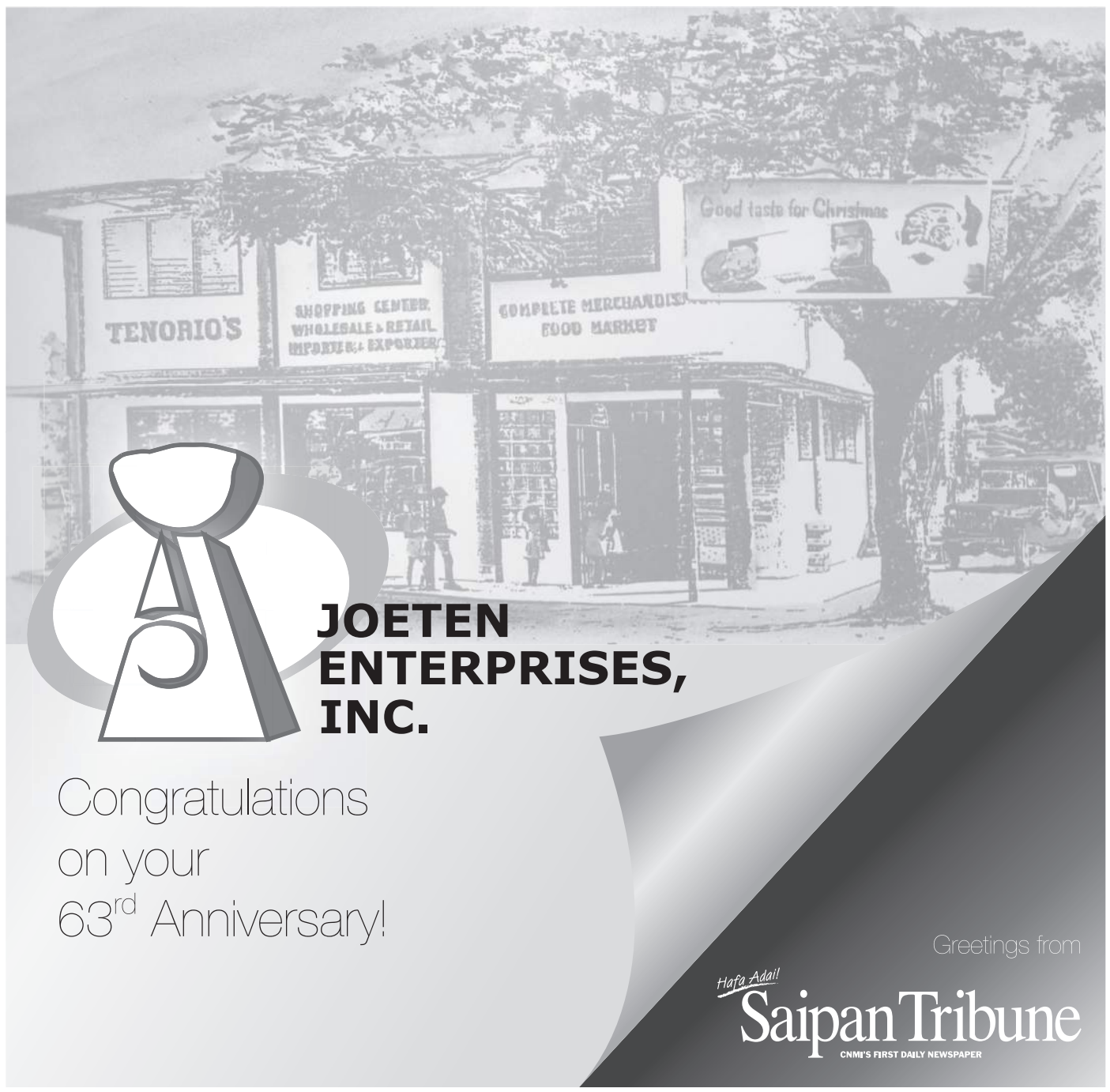

Nation

Analysis, response to Obama's gay marriage stance

President Barack Obama's announcement that he supports gay marriage sent ripples through the political world on Wednesday. What does this mean for the 2012 election against likely Republican nominee Mitt Romney? How has Obama's position evolved? Here's a look at the many facets of this evolving story:

OBAMA'S CHANGING VIEWS

Obama said he came to support gay marriage after spending years talking to family and friends. Looking at his comments dating to 2009, here's a sampling of how his views have change:

■ "I believe strongly in stopping laws designed to take rights away and passing laws that extend equal rights to gay couples. "—Human Rights Campaign, Oct. 11, 2009

■ "At this point, what I've said is, is that my baseline is a strong civil union that provides them the protections and the legal rights that married couples have."—News conference, Dec. 22, 2010

■ "Ultimately, they made a decision to recognize civil marriage. And I think that's exactly how things should work."—News conference on New York's passage of gay marriage, June 29, 2011

Obama

■ "At a certain point I've just concluded that for me personally it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same sex couples should be able to get married."—ABC News interview, May 9, 2012

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Obama's embrace of gay marriage is a political gamble that seeks to fire up young and liberal voters at the possible expense of alienating undecided voters in swing states such as North Carolina and Florida.

Some advisers, pointing to rapidly changing public views of gay rights, say Obama has more to gain than lose by the move. Strong opponents of same-sex marriage were unlikely to support him anyway, they say, and young voters who flocked to his barrier-breaking 2008 campaign are hungry for new reasons to get excited about his re-election bid.

But there are potential downsides. Obama's decision on same-sex marriage might inspire social conservatives to give more money and campaign time to Republican Mitt Romney. In 2008, Obama narrowly won North Carolina, where voters on Tuesday approved a constitutional ban on gay marriage.

ROMNEY RESPONDS

Romney reaffirmed his view that marriage should be restricted to one man and one woman, highlighting a sharp contrast with Obama.

"My view is that marriage itself is between a man and a woman," the presumptive Republican presidential nominee told reporters. He said he believes that states should be able to make decisions about whether to offer certain legal rights to same-sex couples.

"This is a very tender and sensitive topic, as are many social issues, but I have the same view that I've had since—since running for office," Romney said. He first ran for political office in 1994, when he challenged Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and was elected governor of Massachusetts in 2002.

U.S. REACTION

From the left and the right, rival sides in the gay-marriage debate claimed they would reap Election Day benefits from Obama's long-awaited declaration that he supports same-sex couples' right to wed.

For some gays, however, the politics were secondary to an emotional embrace of what they viewed as history in the making.

"Wow—that was wow," said Rodney Mondor of Portland, Maine, after hearing the news. He has lived with his partner for 13 years and is raising a 12-year-old son in a state that will be voting in November on whether to legalize same-sex marriage.

WORLDWIDE RESPONSE

Obama's announcement that he supports gay marriage has boosted the hopes of gay rights groups around the world that other leaders will follow the president's example. But Vatican and other religious officials who oppose gay marriage have stayed largely silent.

Gay rights groups are lauding what they said was the tremendous precedent set by the U.S. president and hoped for changes in their own countries. In Latin America, for example, governments in Argentina and Mexico City have backed gay marriage, but most do not.

Julio Moreira, president of the Rio de Janeiro-based Arco-Iris gay rights group, said Obama's announcement is incredibly important because "the United States is a global leader on everything, and that includes gay rights."

DISAPPOINTED PASTOR

The Rev. Joel Hunter, the evangelical pastor who Obama calls his spiritual adviser, says he's disappointed in Obama's endorsement of same-sex marriage. Hunter says Obama called him before the interview aired with his endorsement.

Hunter says he told the president he disagreed with his interpretation of what the Bible says about marriage and the president reassured him he would protect the religious freedom of churches who oppose gay marriage.

The announcement makes it harder for him to support Obama, Hunter said, but he will continue to do so.

United States District Court for the
Northern Mariana Islands,
Bankruptcy Division

NORTHERN MARIANNA ISLANDS
RETIREMENT FUND

Bankruptcy Case No. 12-00003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the United States Trustee's Motion to Dismiss Case ("motion") is set for hearing on June 1, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. The motion sets forth the grounds regarding why the United States Trustee has determined that the Debtor is ineligible to be a chapter 11 debtor, and accordingly, has requested that the case be dismissed. The full contents of the motion is on file with the Court, and a copy can be obtained from the Court. Any response or opposition to the motion must be filed with the Court on or before May 18, 2012 (14 days before the hearing) at: U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands , 2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 500687, Saipan, MP 96950 USA
If you mail your response to the Court, you must mail it early enough so the Court will receive it on or before the deadline stated above. The Court may disregard any response filed untimely. You must also mail or transmit a copy of any response or opposition to the moving party at: Office of the United States Trustee, Attn: Curtis Ching, Asst. U.S. Trustee, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 602, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.
If you fail to file a response to this motion within such time period, the Court may treat such failure as a waiver of your right to oppose the motion and may grant the requested relief.

Dated: Honolulu, Hawaii May 9, 2012,

Terri H. Didion,
Trial Attorney for U.S. Trustee

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World

Fire in Philippine clothing store kills 17 workers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An inferno at a three-story clothing store in the southern Philippines early Wednesday killed 17 employees, all women who were sleeping on the top floor, police said.

Three women managed to dash out of a burning room and groped their way down three floors in darkness but found that the main steel door in the building in downtown Butuan city was locked, police investigator Jonathan Basil said.

Bystanders used a hydraulic car jack to pry open the gate and pulled the three screaming women out from the burning lobby, Basil said.

"The women kept on pounding the hot steel gate while yelling for help," Basil told The Associated Press by telephone, adding that the employee who kept the door key perished in the room upstairs.

Mylene Tulo, one of three who escaped, said she woke up as the fire spread rapidly in the third-floor room where they slept. She managed to dash out with two colleagues. All three sustained minor burns on their arms.

"We wanted to rouse others from sleep, but the fire was already too strong," a stunned Tulo said.

Investigators were trying to determine what sparked the fire, which broke out at 3:55 a.m. and raged for five hours, city police chief Pedro Obaldo said.

Many stores in the Philippines allow their employees to sleep over, especially those from faraway homes.

Relatives and friends failed to identify any of the 17 badly burned bodies at a funeral home and were asked to bring dental records or anything that could help authorities establish the identities of the dead.

The building in Agusan del Norte province in the southern Mindanao region was a theater before being turned into a commercial center with several stores, including the Novo Jeans and Shirts, where the victims died.

A lack of firefighting equipment and personnel coupled with safety violations has resulted in major fire disasters in the Philippines, especially in shantytowns. Butuan is a city of more than 300,000 about 790 kilometers (500 miles) southeast of Manila.

Blast near UN car shows fragility of Syria truce

DARAA, Syria (AP)—A roadside bomb hit a Syrian military truck Wednesday just seconds after the head of the U.N. observer team drove by in a convoy, demonstrating the fragility of the international plan to end the country's bloodshed.

In Washington, meanwhile, President Barack Obama took steps to extend sanctions against the government of President Bashar Assad, saying Syria poses an "unusual and extraordinary threat" to U.S. national security and diplomatic goals.

The attack, which the regime said wounded 10 Syrian soldiers, emphasized the limits of the international community's plan to use unarmed observers to promote a cease-fire between government troops and rebels trying to topple Assad.

The team of 70 U.N. military observers now in Syria should grow to more than 100 in the coming days. It is unclear when the full team of 300 will arrive. They are to oversee a U.N.-brokered cease-fire that was intended to allow for talks on a political solution to the conflict but began unraveling shortly after it was due to take effect on April 12.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon condemned the attack, saying the continuing violence undermines the plan, which is "possibly the only remaining chance to stabilize the country and avert a civil war."

The peace plan has been troubled from the start, with government troops shelling opposition areas and rebels attacking military convoys and checkpoints despite the cease-fire.

Many civilians have grown critical of the plan, saying it does not protect them from regime forces.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the roadside blast that hit troops escorting the U.N. monitors was "further evidence that the cease-fire is not holding."

Although the daily death toll has dropped in recent days, international envoy Kofi Annan said Tuesday that the level of violence is unacceptable and that the plan's failure could lead to civil war.

Wednesday's blast, witnessed by an Associated Press reporter who was traveling with the United Nations, provided a close-up example of the attacks on security forces that have become almost daily events.

WORLD BRIEFS

Wreckage of Russian jet found on Indonesian cliff

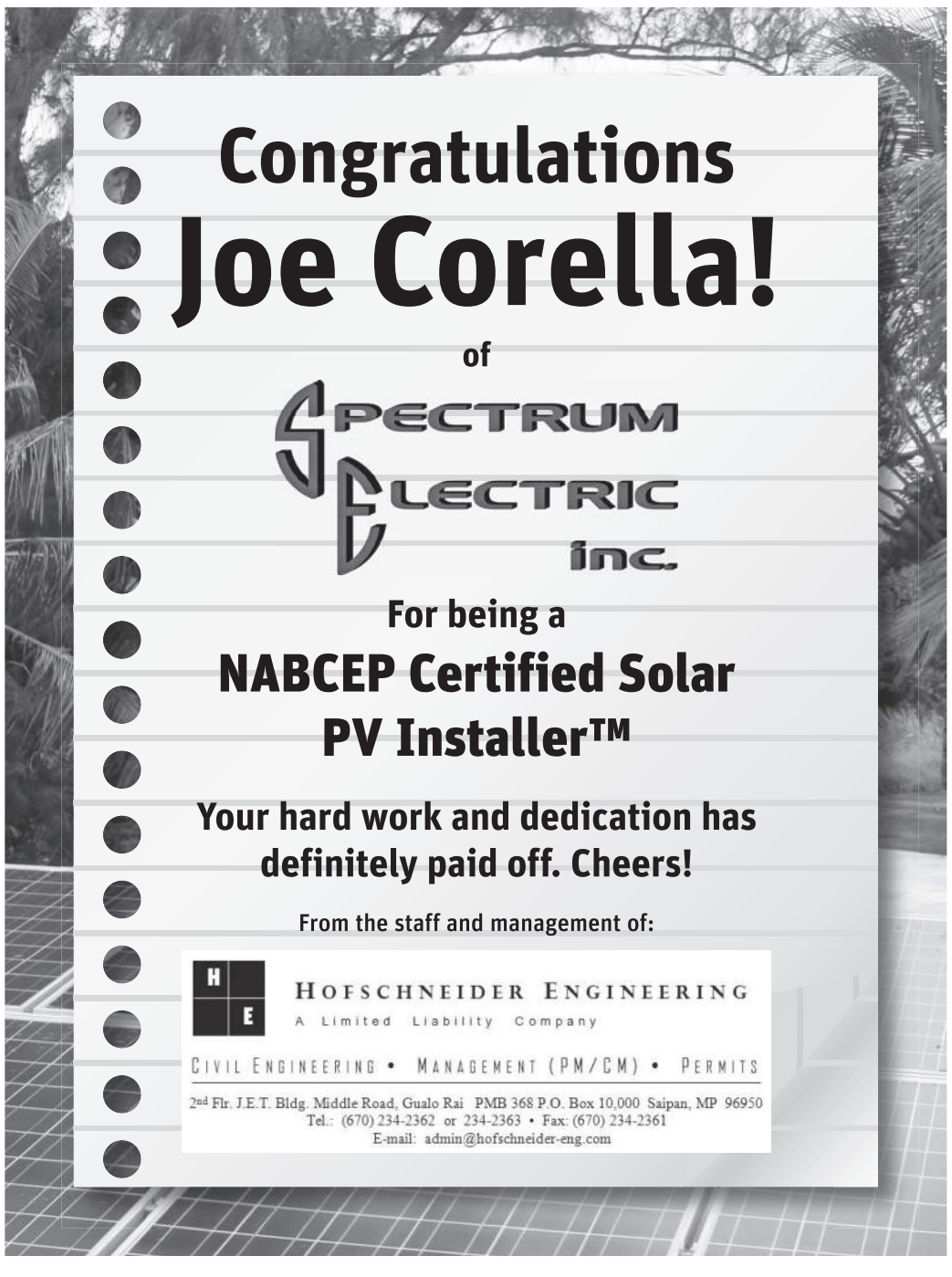
CIDAHU, Indonesia (AP)—A flight showing off a new Russian passenger jet to potential buyers in Indonesia smashed into a steep volcano with 45 people on board, a helicopter team confirmed Thursday. There were no signs of survivors. Family members, many of whom spent a long, sleepless night at the Jakarta airport where the flight originated, broke down in tears on hearing the news. Others stared blankly ahead in disbelief. "From the pictures we're seeing, it looks like it was a total loss," said Daryatmo, chief of the national search and rescue agency. The Sukhoi Superjet-100, Russia's first new passenger jet since the fall of the Soviet Union two decades ago, hit a jagged ridge on top of Mount Salak, a long-dormant volcano.

Official: Sudan warplanes bomb South Sudan

JUBA, South Sudan (AP)—Sudan resumed its aerial bombardment of South Sudan, violating international calls for a cessation of hostilities between the two countries, a South Sudanese military official said Wednesday. Col. Kella Dual Kueth, deputy spokesman for the South Sudan military, said there were attacks Monday and Tuesday in the states of Upper Nile, Unity and Northern Bahr el Ghazal. "Automatically it is a violation," Kueth said. "They always attack in the morning and (in the) evening, as usual."

Greek left-wing leader says coalition bid fails

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece drew closer to holding repeat elections next month after Radical Left leader Alexis Tsipras said Wednesday he has failed to forge a coalition that would end the financially struggling country's political deadlock. Tsipras, whose anti-austerity party was the surprise runner-up in weekend national elections, said that despite his best efforts since receiving the presidential mandate on Tuesday, he was unable to raise enough support to form a government. Tsipras has been seeking support for a left-wing government that will reject the terms of Greece's international bailout—which critics say will lead the country out of the euro.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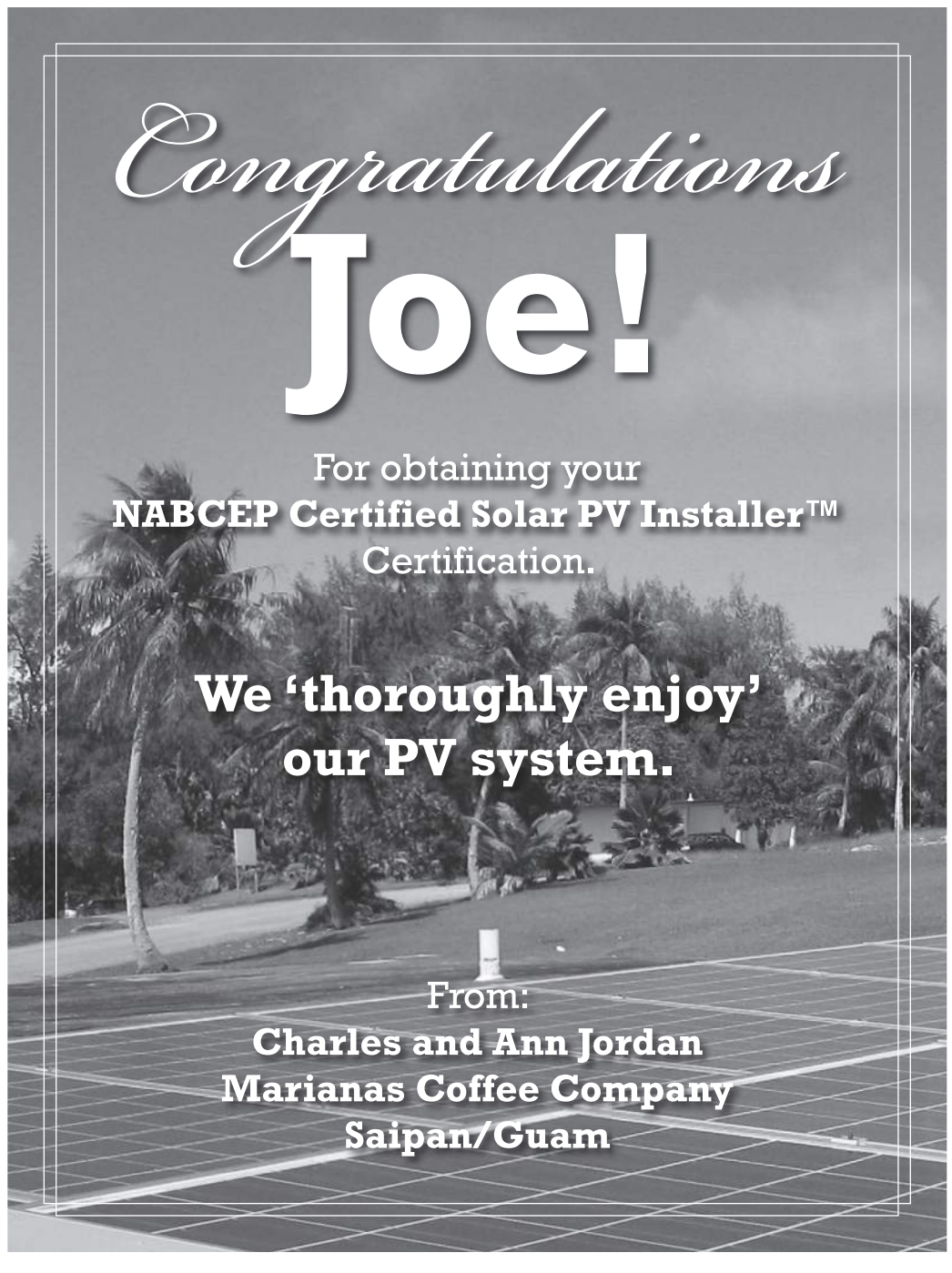


Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Nebraska man changes name to Tyrannosaurus Rex

YORK, Neb. (AP)—A 23-year-old southeast Nebraska man has legally become Tyrannosaurus Rex. The York News-Times reports that the man entered the York County courtroom on Monday as Tyler Gold and left it with the moniker Tyrannosaurus Rex Joseph Gold. Gold says in his public filing for the change that the dinosaur's name is cooler. He says that "as an entrepreneur, name recognition is important and the new name is more recognizable." The newspaper report does not describe his line of business. Judge Alan Gless noted that Gold had gone through the proper legal channels for changing his name, so the judge granted Gold's request.

Teen's sweet prom dress made of Starburst wrappers

ISHPEMING, Mich. (AP)—A northern Michigan teen put together one sweet prom dress, thanks to the help of classmates who collected thousands of Starburst wrappers for her. Diane McNease tells WLUC-TV that she came up with the idea of making her prom dress out of candy wrappers when she saw a friend folding some. She estimates it took about 18,000 Starburst wrappers to make the corset of her dress, as well as matching hair bands and a purse. The Ishpeming High School student wore the dress to Saturday's prom in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The top half of the dress is made out of folded wrappers and the bottom looks more like a traditional gown. It took about five months to make, with help from family and friends.

Another testicle ticket written in South Carolina

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP)—For the second time in a year, a motorist has been ticketed in South Carolina for displaying a replica of testicles on a vehicle. A Spartanburg County sheriff's deputy stopped a truck Sunday evening after noticing the "anatomically correct" display on the rear bumper. The incident report says the driver removed the display after being stopped but he was arrested for driving without a license. He was also given a warning ticket for having an obscene display. Last July, a Berkeley County woman was ticketed for having a similar display on the back of her truck.

National Christmas Tree has died near White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal officials say the National Christmas Tree planted near the White House a year ago has died and is being removed. The National Park Service says the Colorado blue spruce died of "transplant shock." It came from a tree farm in New Jersey last year and was planted on the Ellipse just south of the White House in March 2011. The tree replaced a tree that had stood on the Ellipse since 1978 but was destroyed by high winds in February 2011. The National Park Service says it has already identified a Colorado blue spruce to replace the tree and will plant the new National Christmas Tree in October.

Cops: NY man with $5,000 refuses to pay $12 fare

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)—Police say a New York man who refused to pay a $12 taxi fare was carrying more than $5,000 when the cabbie drove him around looking for cheap cigarettes. The Post-Standard of Syracuse reports that a 68-year-old man had the driver take him to two stores on Monday. Each time he came out empty-handed, saying the price of cigarettes was too high. When the man had the cabbie take him to a third store, the driver asked for the $12.40 fare. The passenger refused to pay and told the cabbie to call police over the issue. Police handcuffed him and searched his pockets, finding more than $5,000 in cash.

Gorilla gets jaw surgery after scuffle at Neb. zoo

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—It was a bit of a zoo at the Nebraska Medical Center over the weekend, when a special patient came in for jaw surgery. Motuba, a 27-year-old silverback gorilla, needed a CT scan after a scuffle Thursday night with another gorilla, said Doug Armstrong, director of animal health at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. The zoo can't perform the scan, so it contacted the hospital, whose staff has been consulted on animal cases in the past. "It wasn't life threatening but we knew we had to address it," Armstrong said. Armstrong said Motuba and one of the younger gorillas apparently got into a fight that left the older gorilla with a fractured jaw that pushed three of his teeth outward.

SOPHIA-FIESTA
Fun Walk
Saturday, May 12, 2012
Registration opens: 6:00 a.m. Start Time: 6:30 a.m.
Starting point Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan
5K and 10K
Registration fee of $10 includes: *Goody bag w/some give-away
* SOPHIA-Fiesta 2012 T-Shirt * Souvenir pin * raffle ticket for door prizes
* light breakfast & entertainment.
Cash prizes awarded to Male & Female Oldest Walker;
Youngest Walker and the Best in Costume.
Advance Registration may be done at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.
Contact PDI Hiroko (287-8780) MVA Hiroko (483-0614) or Elena (234-6412 Ext. 1512)
mwa Marianas Walking Association
Tan Holdings
FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
PDi PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT INC.
KKMP
DFS GALLERIA
Saipan Tinian Rota See My Marianas
Coca-Cola Coke

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: May 04, 2012 — POSITION: Education & Training (level to be decided after interview)
CLOSE DATE: May 12, 2012 — SALARY: Depend on qualifications

Qualifications:
College graduate. Human Resources/personnel management experience strongly preferred.

OPEN DATE: May 04, 2012 — POSITION: Guest Relation Officer
CLOSE DATE: May 12, 2012 — SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Proficiency in Russian language. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile.

OPEN DATE: May 04, 2012 — POSITION: Cook (Korean Cuisine)
CLOSE DATE: May 12, 2012 — SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in culinary experience preferred. Applicants with formal training/education in culinary arts strongly preferred.

OPEN DATE: May 04, 2012 — POSITION: Server
CLOSE DATE: May 12, 2012 — SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Experience in food service required. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred.

OPEN DATE: May 04, 2012 — POSITION: Maintenance Repair
CLOSE DATE: May 12, 2012 — SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years experience preferred. Formal education/training in construction related field highly preferred.

OPEN DATE: May 04, 2012 — POSITION: Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE: May 11, 2012 — SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Obtaining a lifeguard certification is preferred. Must have a friendly and outgoing personality.

For more information, please contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Team Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

DAY CARE/ PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

NEEDED

Qualifications:
- Diploma in Pre-school Education preferred.
- College degree and/or Early Childhood Units preferred.
- Relevant experience in the daycare and pre-school sector necessary.
- Must have the ability to communicate effectively in English language.

Job Descriptions:
- Instruct preschool-aged children in activities designed to promote social, physical, and intellectual growth needed for primary school in preschool, day care center, or other child development facility. Can be a substitute teacher.

Interested applicants should
submit a comprehensive resume to
SAEF School
4th Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe
Tel. 234-8004/8008

On island references and Police Clearance required.

Science & Technology

Orangutans at Miami zoo using iPads

MIAMI (AP)—The orangutans at Miami's Jungle Island apparently are just like people when it comes to technology. The park is one of several zoos experimenting with computers and apes, letting its six orangutans use an iPad to communicate and as part of a mental stimulus program. Linda Jacobs, who oversees the program, hopes the devices will eventually help bridge the gap between humans and the endangered apes.

"Our young ones pick up on it. They understand it. It's like, `Oh I get this,'" Jacobs said. "Our two older ones, they just are not interested. I think they just figure, `I've gotten along just fine in this world without this communication-skill here and the iPad, and I don't need a computer.'"

Jacobs said she began letting the orangutans use iPads last summer, based on the suggestion of someone who had used the devices with dolphins. The software was originally designed for humans with autism and the screen displays pictures of various objects. A trainer then names one of the objects, and the ape presses the corresponding button.

The devices have been a great addition to the enrichment programs Jungle Island already does with the orangutans, Jacobs said. Keepers have long used sign language to communicate with them. Using their hands, the orangutans can respond to simple questions and identify objects.

Facebook gives more details on mobile usage

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook says the number of people logging in is continuing to grow more quickly than the number of ads delivered.

This is in part because more people are using Facebook on mobile devices, where it shows a very small number of ads, Facebook said Wednesday. The finding implies that Facebook has room to grow in the still-nascent mobile advertising space.

Facebook says it saw that trend in the first quarter, and that has continued in the current quarter.

Facebook Inc., which is expected to begin trading publicly next week, added three paragraphs on mobile usage to regulatory filings. The changes came after executives met with prospective investors in New York and Boston ahead of its initial public offering of stock. The additions were likely in response to questions from investors.

iPad dominance limits apps for other tablets

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: When are companies going to start writing applications for tablet computers other than the iPad? I own a Pandigital tablet, and when I try to download apps, I'm told they're either for the iPad or iPhone.—LeRoy Hilton, Oro Valley, Ariz.

ANSWER: You can expect more apps for non-Apple tablet computers when those devices gain more market share. How soon, or if, that will happen is anyone's guess.

People who write apps are motivated by the revenue they're likely to get. They can maximize that revenue by focusing on the tablet computer that is owned by the largest number of people.

Right now, the best opportunity for app writers is the iPad, which in the first three months of 2012 accounted for 68 percent of the 17.4 million tablet computers sold worldwide, according to market research firm IDC. The iPad's chief competitors, in order of market share, are tablets made by Samsung, Amazon, Lenovo and Barnes & Noble. Pandigital is further down the list.

■■■

Q: I recently bought a Kindle Fire tablet computer, and I'm disappointed that it cannot be read in the sunshine as other Kindle devices can. Is there anything I can do to make the screen more readable outdoors, such as buying an anti-glare screen protector? —Mary Jo Ready, Shoreview, Minn.

A: An anti-glare protector won't help. The issue is that your Kindle Fire's LCD, or liquid crystal display, screen is lit from inside, but isn't bright enough to compete with sunlight. Your only outdoor options are to raise the screen brightness and find some shade. A video that explains how to adjust screen brightness can be found on Amazon's help pages, at http://www.tinyurl.com/7289vlo.

■■■

Q: My Windows task bar was always at the bottom of my screen, but the other day it went to the top for some reason. How can I get it back to the bottom of the screen?—Kathleen Gignac, Bartow, Fla.

A: The task bar can be dragged to a new location using your mouse. Left-click a blank space on the task bar and, while holding down the mouse button, drag the bar to the bottom of the screen.

You can skip this manual process if you are using Windows XP or Windows Vista. Just go to http://www.tinyurl.com/c7qwp8 and click the automatic "fix it" button. That will return the task bar to its default position at the bottom of the screen.

If you have problems with either of these techniques, the task bar may have become "locked" in its current position. There are directions on the same Web page that explain how to "unlock" the tool bar's location so it can be moved.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. **CATHERINE B. PANGELINAN-SALAS and JOSEPH S. SALAS,** Defendants. — **Civil Action No. 11-0264** — **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS CATHERINE B. PANGELINAN-SALAS and JOSEPH S. SALAS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint for Foreclosure.

SO ORDERED on this 27th day of April, 2012.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALD W. BURCHER, Jr., Petitioner, vs. **DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER,** Respondent. — **FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0443**

ORDER FOR RESPONDENT DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD

TO: DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER

Pursuant to 7 CMC § 1301,YOU are hereby ORDERED to make a personal appearance before the Court or else to file any written response you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within twenty (20) days after publication of this Order in one of the two major daily newspapers in the Commonwealth. You are further directed to deliver or mail a copy of any responsive pleading that you file to Petitioner's attorney, Thomas E. Clifford, whose address is:

2nd Floor, Alexander Building,
San Jose
P.O. Box 506514
Saipan, MP 96950

as soon as practicable after filing. Any responsive pleading should be filed with Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. If you fail either to make a personal appearance or to file a written response in accordance with this Order, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

So ORDERED this 23rd day of January, 2012.

/s/ The Honorable PERRY B. INOS
Associate Judge

Life & Style

Warhol 'Elvis' fetches $37M at NYC auction

NEW YORK (AP)—Andy Warhol's "Double Elvis" sold for $37 million and works by Roy Lichtenstein and Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei broke their own records at Sotheby's contemporary art sale on Wednesday.

Lichtenstein's "Sleeping Girl," depicting a woman with closed eyes and flowing blond hair, fetched $44,882,500; Weiwei's 1-ton, handmade porcelain "Sunflower Seeds" brought $782,500.

Another major work on the auction block—Francis Bacon's "Figure Writing Reflected in Mirror"—sold for $44,882,500. The buyers' names for each of the four pieces were not released.

The sale came on the heels of art auction history. Last week, the auction house sold Edvard Munch's "The Scream" for $119.9 million, making it the most expensive artwork ever sold at auction.

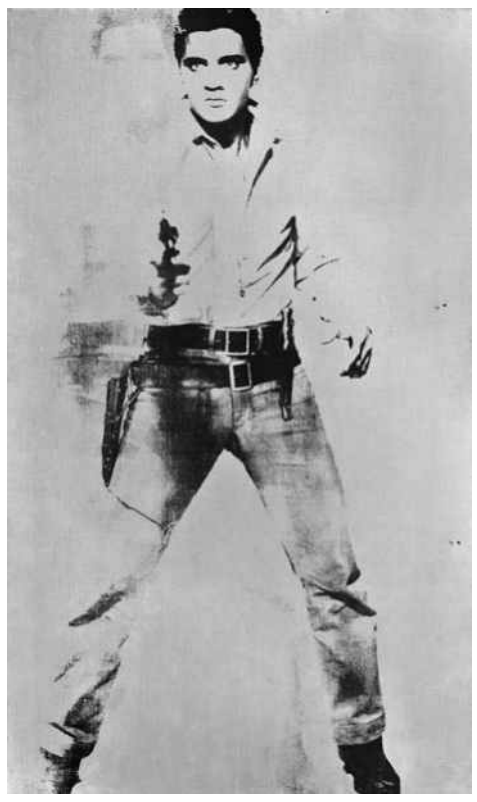
"The reason for these record-breaking sales is, quite simply, the quality of material on show," said Michael Frahm, a contemporary art adviser at the London-based Frahm Ltd. "The key is quality."

Warhol's "Double Elvis (Ferus Type)," a silver silkscreen image of Elvis Presley depicted as a cowboy, fetched $37,042,500. It had been expected to sell for $30 million to $50 million. The auction house said it was the first "Double Elvis" to appear on the market since 1995. Warhol produced a series of 22 images of Elvis. Nine are in museum collections.

The rock and roll heartthrob is shown armed and shooting from the hip, a shadowy Elvis figure faintly visible in the background. It was offered for sale by a private American collector, who acquired it in 1977.

The record for a Warhol is $71.7 million for his "Green Car Crash—Green Burning Car I," sold at Christie's in 2007.

Lichtenstein's "Sleeping Girl," was one of a series of sexy comic book-inspired images created by the artist in the 1960s, the work was exhibited only once—at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles in 1989-90. It was sold by the estate of Los Angeles collectors and philanthropists Beatrice and Phillip Gersh, who were the founding members of MOCA.



AP

This undated image provided by Sotheby's shows Andy Warhol's portrait of Elvis Presley depicted as a cowboy.

His "I Can See the Whole Room! ... and There's Nobody in it!" held the previous auction record for the artist. It sold for $43.2 million at Christie's in November.

Weiwei's "Sunflower Seeds" is one of an edition of 10 and was accompanied by a certificate signed by the artist. The ceramic seeds, which can be arranged in a myriad of shapes, were the subject of a Tate Modern exhibit in 2010. The previous Weiwei auction record was $657,000 for his "Chandelier," set at Sotheby's in 2007.

The work is fraught with symbolism. Sunflowers are at once a Chinese street snack and also an emblem adopted by Mao Zedong.

"The works by Ai Weiwei and Francis Bacon are hot for different reasons," said Lisa Fischman, director of the Davis Museum at Wellesley College. "One is electrified by the artist's political provocations, and the other by the frisson of sexual mystery."

Bacon's "Figure Writing," which depicts the artist and his partner, George Dyer, writing at a table, was included in a 1977 Paris exhibition alongside "Triptych," a 1976 work by the artist that sold for $86.2 million at Sotheby's in 2008. It held the record for any contemporary artwork at auction until Tuesday night when Mark Rothko's "Orange, Red, Yellow" claimed that title when it sold at Christie's for $86.8 million.

It had been in the same private collection for more than 30 years.

The "Elvis" silkscreen was exhibited at the Ferus Gallery in Los Angeles in 1963, the year it was created. The auction catalog described the work, based on a movie publicity photo, as "the deification of a contemporary warrior-saint, the towering, pre-eminent idol bearing a deadly weapon as if protecting the mythical world of celebrity itself."

Liberator of ladies' hair Vidal Sassoon dies at 84

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Vidal Sassoon used his hairstyling shears to free women from beehives and hot rollers and give them wash-and-wear cuts that made him an international name in hair care.

Sassoon

When he came on the scene in the 1950s, hair was high and heavy—typically curled, teased, piled and shellacked into place. Then came the 1960s, and Sassoon's creative cuts, which required little styling and fell into place perfectly every time, fit right in with the fledgling women's liberation movement.

"His timing was perfect: As women's hair was liberated, so were their lives," Allure magazine Editor-in-Chief Linda Wells told The Associated Press in a written statement. "Sassoon was one of the original feminists."

Sassoon was at his home in Los Angeles with his family when he died Wednesday at age 84, police spokesman Kevin Maiberger said. Maiberger said police were summoned to the home but found that Sassoon had died of natural causes, and authorities wouldn't investigate further.

"Vidal Sassoon was the most famous hairstylist in the history of the world," said John Paul DeJoria, a close friend of Sassoon and CEO of John Paul Mitchell Systems, a company he co-founded with the late Paul Mitchell, a Sassoon protege. "Good hairstylists never die. Vidal Sassoon and Paul Mitchell will always live on."

DeJoria said Sassoon had been scheduled to sit at his table for a fundraiser Monday night but called to cancel, saying "his body was feeling just a little bit too tired and he would be there in spirit."

Sassoon opened his first salon in his native London in 1954 but said he didn't perfect his cut-is-everything approach until the mid-'60s. Once the wash-and-wear concept hit, though, it hit big, and many women retired their curlers for good.

Songwriters Bacharach, David win Gershwin Prize

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama honored Burt Bacharach and Hal David on Wednesday night as "two kings of songwriting," presenting them the nation's highest prize for popular music at the White House.

The songwriting duo received the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song during a tribute concert in the East Room, featuring Stevie Wonder, Sheryl Crow, Lyle Lovett and others. Wonder sang their tunes, "Make It Easy on Yourself" and "Alfie," wowing the crowd on his harmonica.

Bacharach, 83, thanked Obama, saying the award for his life's work topped even the Oscars and Grammys he won for individual projects. David, 90, could not attend because he is recovering from a stroke. His wife, Eunice David, accepted on his behalf.

Bacharach and David have written many unforgettable tunes—"Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head," "Close to You" and "That's What Friends Are For" all come from their songbook. They produced dozens of top 40 hits, churning out hit music for movies, television and a variety of recordings artists in the 1960s and beyond.

More than 55 years after their first songs hit the airwaves, Obama said "these guys have still got it." He noted Bacharach appeared in recent years on "American Idol" and "Dancing With the Stars," and their music is still being recorded by such artists as Alicia Keys and John Legend.

"Above all, they stayed true to themselves," Obama said. "And with an unmistakable authenticity, they captured the emotions of our daily lives—the good times, the bad times, and everything in between."

The Library of Congress, which houses the world's largest collection of sheet music and some of the earliest sound recordings, awards its Gershwin Prize as a lifetime achievement award to honor the legacy of the songwriting team of George and Ira Gershwin. Bacharach and David truly reflected the Gershwins as a combination of composer and lyricist and have produced one of the world's "most recognizable and richest multigenerational playlists," said Librarian of Congress James Billington.

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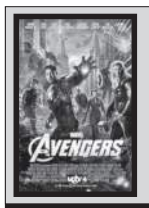
Dark Shadows
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Monday and Tuesday 4:15 7:15
Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter
Horror • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Entombed for 200 years after betraying vengeful witch Angelique Bouchard (Eva Green), 18th Century vampire Barnabas Collins (Johnny Depp) returns to Collinwood Manor in 1972, only to find his estate in ruins and his family plagued by macabre secrets in Tim Burton's re-boot of the popular supernatural soap opera. It was the year 1752 when Barnabas Collins' parents attempted to elude a family curse by fleeing from England to America. 20 years later, wealthy Barnabas was the master of Collinwood Manor, and one of the most powerful figures in Collinsport, Maine.

★ ★ ★



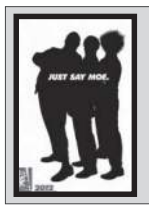
Marvel's The Avengers
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:55
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:55
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Monday and Tuesday 4:10 7:10
Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson
Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Marvel Studios delivers the ultimate comic-book production, tying such characters as Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Captain America (Chris Evans), The Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), and Thor (Chris Hemsworth) together for a big-screen franchise team-up like no other. Show runner Joss Whedon (Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Firefly) adapts and helms the script by Zak Penn, with a supporting cast that includes Samuel L. Jackson and Jeremy Renner.

Pirates! Band of Misfits
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Monday and Tuesday 4:05 7:05
Hugh Grant, Brendan Gleeson
Children's/family • Rated PG

Safe
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:30
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Monday and Tuesday 4:30 7:30
Jason Statham, Catherine Chan
Crime • Rated R

The Lucky One
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Monday and Tuesday 4:25 7:25
Zac Efron, Taylor Schilling
Drama • Rated PG 13



Three Stooges
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:35
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Monday and Tuesday 4:20 7:20
Will Sasso, Sean Hayes, Chris Diamantopoulos
Comedy • Rated PG

The Hunger Games
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Monday and Tuesday 4:00 7:00
Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

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Adult survivor of child abuse wants to break from her past

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: When I was in sixth grade, my 19-year-old brother, "Ray," came into my room and fondled me late at night. I pretended to be asleep so I didn't have to deal with the situation. I told my mom afterward. She told me not to tell my father and bought a lock for my door.

Years later, when my sister found out what happened to me, she told me Ray had also done it to her. She told Dad and confronted Mom. Neither one ever said anything to Ray. They told us it was "in the past" and to leave it alone.

Because my sister is openly confrontational about it, she isn't invited to family events that he is attending. I am invited because I just ignore him, but it's uncomfortable knowing my parents took his side over that of their two daughters. I won't let my daughter be alone with him—or with him and my mom, because I don't trust her anymore.

Should I tell my parents I don't want to hear about my brother and no longer want to be around him?

WRONGED IN GEORGIA

DEAR WRONGED: Yes, if it will make you feel better, by all means do. That your parents would ignore your brother's predatory behavior is appalling. By protecting him, your mother betrayed you and your sister.

You are also wise to be vigilant if he is anywhere around your daughter and to restrict contact with him to a minimum. No child is safe around your brother.

If you and your sister haven't had counseling to come to terms with what happened to you, please consider contacting the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN). The website is www.rainn.org, and the toll-free number is 800-656-4673. Nothing you say to the counselors will shock them, and they will be glad to refer you to someone qualified to help you.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I think my in-laws want my husband to divorce me because I have Asperger's syndrome and bipolar disorder. Sometimes I innocently say things that other family members take offense to. My mother-in-law then calls my husband, tells him what a "nut" I am and how upset "so-and-so" got. This results in huge fights between my husband and me, and it's hurting our marriage.

I have offered to educate my in-laws about bipolar and Asperger's, but they say I'm just making excuses for my behavior. I would like to explain to them that my thought processes aren't the same as everyone else's, so I am going to make mistakes in what I say to people.

I am hurt by their judgment and lack of tolerance. I don't do "bad" things often—maybe once or twice a year. But instead of overlooking it, they make a big deal out of it because I'm different. They should focus on the good. I do a lot of charity work and would help anyone in need. Their lack of understanding is ruining my marriage. I'm 25 and we have been married for five years. I don't want to throw that away. What do I do?

AM HOW I AM IN ALABAMA

DEAR "HOW YOU ARE": That your marriage has lasted through five years of your mother-in-law's attempts to undercut it tells me the bond between you and your husband must be a strong one. Does HE understand how Asperger's and bipolar disorder affect the brain? If not, then the doctor who prescribes your medication should explain it to him so he can explain to his parents that what they are complaining about is not your fault. And if they don't "get it," a behavioral specialist should explain to them that they should be more patient and understanding with a member of their family.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Joshua Ledet wows 'American Idol' judges

In this May 3, 2012 photo released by Fox, the remaining competitors from the singing competition series, "American Idol," from left, Phillip Phillips, Hollie Cavanaugh, Josh Ledet and Jessica Sanchez, are shown in Los Angeles.
AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The "American Idol" judges are under Joshua Ledet's spell and aren't afraid to show it.

For the second week in a row, the panel on Wednesday lavished the 20-year-old from Westlake, La., with praise, especially for his performance of "It's a Man's World." Ledet earned a standing ovation from the judges for the James Brown song, and also won them over with a version of Josh Groban's "You Raise Me Up."

Sixteen-year-old Jessica "Bebe Chez" Sanchez, of San Diego, got her own show of respect for versions of Etta James' "Steal Away" and Jennifer Holliday's "And I'm Telling You (I'm Not Going)." The other two finalists are 21-year-old Phillip Phillips, of Leesburg, Ga., and 18-year-old Hollie Cavanagh, of McKinney. Viewers will decide which of the contestants will fail to advance.

Depp, Burton bring 'Dark Shadows' comedy to London

LONDON (AP)—Johnny Depp's gothic comedy "Dark Shadows" is creeping into London for its European premiere.

The star joined director Tim Burton and co-stars Michelle Pfeiffer, Helena Bonham Carter, Eva Green and Chloe Moretz on the red carpet in the British capital Wednesday night. The movie hits U.K. cinemas Friday.

For Depp, it was the eighth time he's teamed up with Burton, who keeps things "fresh."

"It's always new, it's always different, so it feels like the first time every time," he said. "He just keeps getting better and better as a filmmaker and as an artist."

"Dark Shadows" is based on the American cult classic TV series. It centers on Barnabas Collins (Depp)—a wealthy man who is turned into a vampire by a witch (Green) and then buried alive. Some 200 years later he is unearthed by a construction crew and suddenly finds himself back in his insular Maine hometown in 1972.

A confused Barnabas discovers that his descendants have lost the wealth his family once had.

Pfeiffer said the film version is very different.

"Our movie isn't all that reflective really of the original series," she said. "It's more of an homage really, but Tim has a very distinct stamp on this and it's really more of a Tim Burton movie."

Burton was a huge fan of the TV show, which is why he jumped at the chance to adapt it for the big screen.

"It was a soap opera on in the day that had witches, ghosts and vampires, so it was a weird thing ... especially at that time when there was not a lot of cable and stuff," he explained. "We'd run home from school and watch it and it was the combination of that it was just such a weird, serious supernatural soap opera that made it intriguing."

As with the TV show, Burton kept the story in the early 1970s, which meant the cast had to look the part.

For Pfeiffer, who plays Barnabas' descendant, Elizabeth Collins Stoddard, embracing the fashion of the time was fun.

"I love the hair, the makeup, the shoes, I love all of it—for women," she said. "For men, I don't think it is a great period. It's not good for men."

But Bonham Carter, who stars as the family psychiatrist, wasn't as much of a fan of the 70s look, describing it as "not the most flattering era."

Ex-Miss USA Rima Fakih gets probation in DUI case

HIGHLAND PARK, Mich. (AP)—Rima Fakih, the first Arab-American to be crowned Miss USA, avoided jail during sentencing Wednesday in her Michigan drunken driving case, an experience she described as "very humbling."

Judge William McConico put Fakih on six months of probation, ordered the former beauty queen to perform 20 hours of community service and said she must pay $600 in fines and costs. Fakih also must attend an alcohol safety class.

The 26-year-old pleaded no contest last month to driving while visibly impaired in Highland Park, an enclave of Detroit. A no contest plea isn't an admission of guilt but is treated as such for sentencing. Fakih faced a maximum penalty of 93 days in jail.

"I'm very relieved" not to have been sentenced to serve jail time, Fakih said. "But let's say it got to that point. I was willing to pay the price it took because I knew I made mistakes."

Fakih

Fakih has said she wasn't drinking the night of her arrest in December, but two police breath tests put her blood alcohol content at more than twice the legal limit.

She was asked Wednesday about her previous denial, but Fakih's lawyer, W. Otis Culpepper, said he didn't think it was "fair to revisit what went on that night."

Fakih's family moved to New York from Lebanon in 1993 and then to the Detroit suburb of Dearborn 10 years later. When she won the Miss USA Pageant in 2010, she became the first Arab-American to do so. Supporters described her win as a victory for diversity, saying it countered negative stereotypes about people of Middle Eastern descent that have flourished in post-Sept. 11 America.

Police said Fakih was driving 60 mph in a 30 mph zone and weaving in and out of traffic before they pulled her over, and officers found an open bottle of champagne behind the driver's seat of the 2011 Jaguar.

Weiwei, Lichtenstein works break records at NY

NEW YORK (AP)—Ai Weiwei's "Sunflower Seeds" has sold at auction for $782,500, a record for the Chinese dissident artist.

Following that sale, Roy Lichtenstein's "Sleeping Girl" also broke a record for a Lichtenstein work, selling for $44,882,500.

The artworks were auctioned by Sotheby's on Wednesday, a week after Sotheby's sold Edvard Munch's "The Scream" for $119.9 million, making it the most expensive artwork ever sold at auction.

Weiwei's handmade porcelain sunflower seeds broke the previous record for his works. His "Chandelier" piece brought $657,000 at Sotheby's in 2007.

Lichtenstein's "Sleeping Girl," depicting a woman with closed eyes and flowing blond hair, broke the record for a Lichtenstein work set in November. "I Can See the Whole Room! ... and There's Nobody in it!" sold for $43.2 million at Christie's.

Whitney Houston's mother releases new gospel songs

NEW YORK (AP)—Whitney Houston's mother has released a new album of gospel tunes, her first new music since her daughter's death and in more than a decade.

Cissy Houston's "Walk on By Faith" was released by Harlem Records on iTunes this week and includes songs such as "Living Shall Not Be In Vain."

Harlem Records rep Bill Coyle said Wednesday her last album was in 1997. He says she started working on the album last year and musically arranged all four tracks.

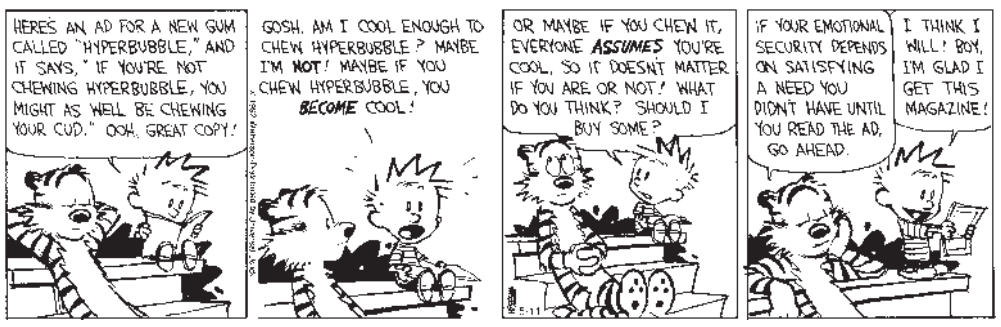
Cissy Houston has kept a low profile since her superstar daughter died in February, giving just one interview.

Whitney Houston was 48 when she drowned in a Beverly Hills, Calif., hotel bathtub on the eve of the Grammy Awards. An autopsy showed cocaine played a role in her death.

Pastimes

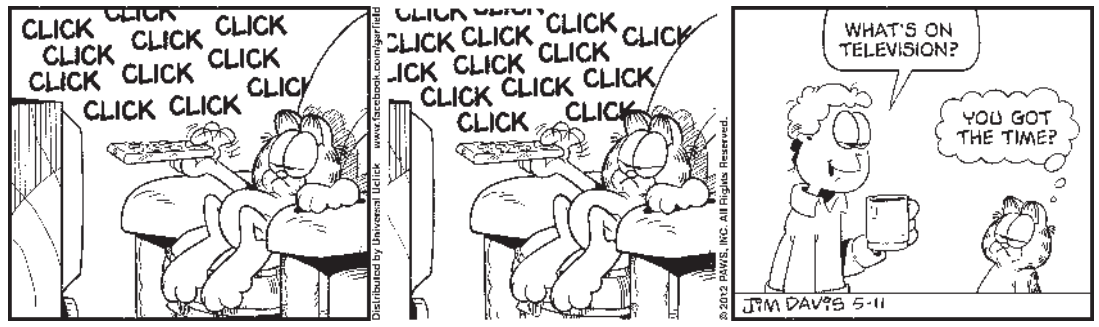
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE'S AN AD FOR A NEW GUM CALLED "HYPERBUBBLE," AND IT SAYS, "IF YOU'RE NOT CHEWING HYPERBUBBLE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE CHEWING YOUR CUD." OOH, GREAT COPY!
GOSH. AM I COOL ENOUGH TO CHEW HYPERBUBBLE? MAYBE I'M NOT! MAYBE IF YOU CHEW HYPERBUBBLE, YOU BECOME COOL!
OR MAYBE IF YOU CHEW IT, EVERYONE ASSUMES YOU'RE COOL, SO IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU ARE OR NOT! WHAT DO YOU THINK? SHOULD I BUY SOME?
IF YOUR EMOTIONAL SECURITY DEPENDS ON SATISFYING A NEED YOU DIDN'T HAVE UNTIL YOU READ THE AD, GO AHEAD.
I THINK I WILL! BOY, I'M GLAD I GET THIS MAGAZINE!

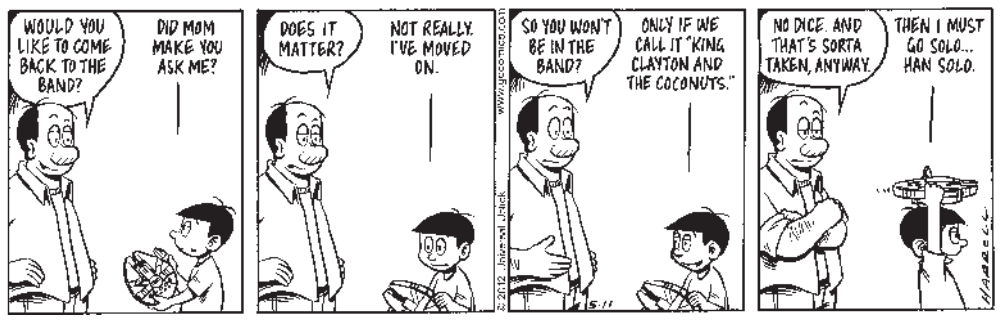
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME BACK TO THE BAND?
DID MOM MAKE YOU ASK ME?
DOES IT MATTER?
NOT REALLY. I'VE MOVED ON.
SO YOU WON'T BE IN THE BAND?
ONLY IF WE CALL IT "KING CLAYTON AND THE COCONUTS."
NO DICE. AND THAT'S SORTA TAKEN, ANYWAY.
THEN I MUST GO SOLO... HAN SOLO.
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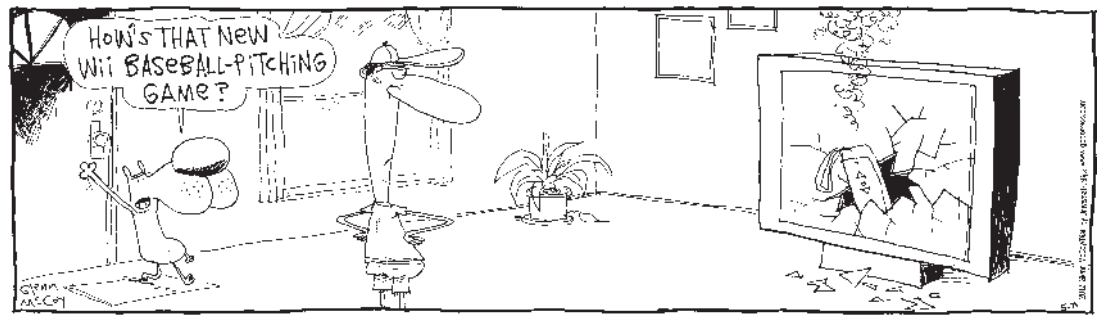
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Boar's mate
4 Deteriorate
7 Blender setting
12 N.A. section
13 GI's mail address
14 Game venue
15 Transgression
16 Precursor
18 Coop dweller
19 Calamari
20 Mideast nation
22 Sailors' org.
23 Existed
27 Handle
29 Alluring quality (Var.)
31 Nome dome home
34 Duck
35 Escargots
37 Strike
38 Hybrid pooch
39 — Baba
41 Region
45 Production number?
47 Japanese pond carp
48 Snack for Wimpy
52 Tractor-trailer
53 Pong creator
54 "Rocks"
55 Tray contents?
56 Knapsack part
57 Dance syllable?
58 Prepared

DOWN
1 Futomaki, e.g.
2 Wicker-work willow
3 Would like to, colloquially
4 Bleacherites' calls
5 Not transparent
6 Doughnut shape
7 Picked up the tab
8 Grecian vessel
9 Rule, for short
10 Away from WSW
11 Corn spike
17 Bob's longtime pal
21 Ring used in a throwing game
23 Matilda's dance
24 Flightless bird
25 Scepter
26 Before
28 Scale member
30 Wahine's accessory
31 Doctrine
32 Wildebeest
33 Long. crosser
36 Dino's tail?
37 Full of modern gadgetry
40 Reason
42 Gumbo ingredients
43 Din
44 Two-by-four?
45 Witticism
46 Vicinity
48 Owns
49 Lawyer (Abbr.)
50 Scratch
51 Underwear with underwire

Solution time: 25 mins.

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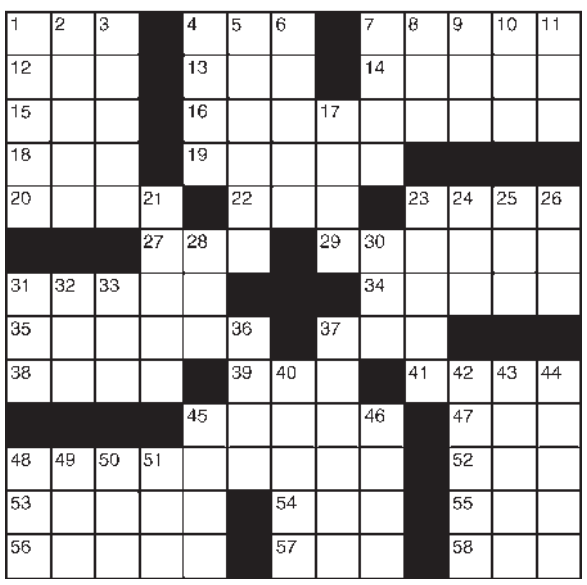
Yesterday's answer 5-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Holly Valance, 29; Cory Monteith, 30; Frances Fisher, 60; Eric Burdon, 71.

Happy Birthday: Don't let emotions take over. You must pull together and set your course. Don't let underlying problems loom. Take care of matters quickly and efficiently so you can proceed without fear that someone or something will come back to cut you off from your well-deserved success. Your numbers are 3, 10, 16, 23, 29, 35, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Sign up for something you enjoy doing, or get together with someone who shares your sense of humor. A love relationship will develop with someone who shares your concerns. Do what needs to be done and make the necessary reforms. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Overlook the little things people do that bother you. It's far better to project a positive attitude than to complain or criticize. Your lightheartedness will earn you a stellar reputation and win the confidence of peers and colleagues. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make special plans. Attending a function that will encourage you to participate in self-improvement or awareness practices will leave you feeling rejuvenated and confident that you can accomplish anything. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let emotional issues sway you where money matters are concerned. You can't buy love. Donations, lending or borrowing should all be off-limits. Nurture a partnership by being generous with your time, your affection and your presence. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll find it difficult to deal with emotional matters. Don't let anything stop you from taking care of your responsibilities. Overindulgent people will cause you grief. Avoid anyone demanding your time or restricting what you can do. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take part in activities you enjoy, and you will gain confidence and meet worthwhile individuals who can contribute to one of your goals. Creative ideas will develop through conversations you have with or about people from your past. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Finish what you start. Keep things in perspective and don't allow emotions to stand in the way of a good decision. Romance is in the stars, and a promise can be made that will bring you closer to the one you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't take criticism too seriously. Your attitude can make a difference in the way others treat you. Share thoughts, dreams and ideas that are conducive to making your surroundings comfortable and more affordable. Talk will lead to action. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Social events that include past partners or that reunite you with people from your past may bring back emotional disappointments that you thought you had forgotten. Love is on the rise, but don't make the same mistake twice. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Spend time dealing with personal matters. You can make a difference to close friends and family if you listen to grievances. Expanding your residence or inviting more people to enjoy your space will bring excellent results. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put more time and effort into the way you look and the way you present what you have to offer. Love is on the rise, and getting together with someone you care about will lead to a stronger relationship. Don't overindulge or overspend. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Straightforward answers will be the best way to handle a troublesome relationship. Whether it is business or personal, you have to clear the air with anyone you work alongside. Good fortune will come from good connections. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and innovative. You are a leader, not a follower.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6								5
		9	5	1	3	2		
	4						8	
	7			2			4	
	5						7	
	9			4			1	
	1						2	
		7	8	9	4	1		
4								6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	1	4	7	3	9	6	2
4	9	7	5	2	6	1	3	8
3	2	6	1	8	9	5	4	7
7	1	9	8	6	4	3	2	5
5	8	3	7	9	2	4	1	6
2	6	4	3	5	1	8	7	9
1	7	5	2	4	8	6	9	3
6	3	2	9	1	5	7	8	4
9	4	8	6	3	7	2	5	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/10

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FROZEN YOGURT Solution: 9 letters

P	Y	A	S	S	C	C	T	C	S	O	R	B	E	T
I	O	L	D	E	D	H	O	H	Y	M	M	U	Y	N
N	G	M	N	O	G	N	E	E	F	F	O	C	E	I
A	U	O	E	I	E	N	U	E	L	E	M	O	N	P
C	R	N	L	G	E	H	A	O	S	I	Z	E	O	C
O	T	D	B	Z	R	E	C	R	M	E	L	O	H	S
L	F	C	O	C	O	A	A	H	O	P	C	T	M	A
A	Y	R	I	A	D	L	N	C	P	S	E	A	O	U
D	F	L	U	M	M	T	D	A	R	K	N	R	K	C
A	U	I	W	I	K	H	I	E	T	G	I	T	O	E
N	D	S	N	L	T	Y	E	P	O	E	F	O	N	S
A	G	T	E	K	K	O	S	H	E	R	L	A	A	P
N	E	F	S	T	R	A	W	B	E	R	R	Y	C	U
A	C	O	O	K	I	E	S	W	I	R	L	S	E	C
B	T	S	M	A	J	B	R	O	W	N	I	E	P	E

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Almond, Apple, Banana, Bites, Blends, Brownie, Candies, Cheesecake, Cocoa, Coffee, Cone, Cookies, Cool, Cups, Dairy, Dark, Fine, Frozen, Fruit, Fudge, Healthy, Honey, Jams, Kiwi, Kosher, Lemon, Light, Mango, Milk, Mint, Mounds, Orange, Peach, Pecan, PinaColada, Pint, Pomegranate, Sauces, Scoop, Size, Soft, Sorbet, Strawberry, Swirls, Tart, Yogurt, Yummy

Yesterday's Answer: Babies

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORDS, Volume 22 is the... (publication info)

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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
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Saipan Tribune

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Interested parties must bring in the ff. requirements:
1. Bio data or resumes
2. One (1) 2x2 size ID picture
3. Certificate of employments from previous employers
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
DEPUTY CLERK 1
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court, CNMI Judicial Branch
TINIAN and SAIPAN

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Superior Court is seeking **Deputy Clerk 1, Office of the Clerk of Court on the islands of TINIAN and SAIPAN.**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties: receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings; provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system; provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including but not limited to the document imaging and online filing system; inspects physical and electronic documents submitted to court, including looking for accuracy, proper form, and conformance with court order or court rules; assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window; prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files; serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including but not limited to swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and, performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: A high school degree or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field. Candidates must possess a valid CNMI driver's license, current police and traffic clearances and be able to demonstrate eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: These are ungraded positions appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Starting salary will be $20,485 per annum, commensurate with experience.

Application forms may be obtained at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Supreme Court office at the Guma Hustisia/Ilimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, resumes, proof of high school graduation, along with copies of police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI may be submitted at: the Supreme Court office at the House of Justice in Susupe, Saipan, the Superior Court offices on Rota and Tinian or addressed to Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP, 96950. This job announcement will remain open until filled. For additional information about the position call (670) 236-9716. This job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

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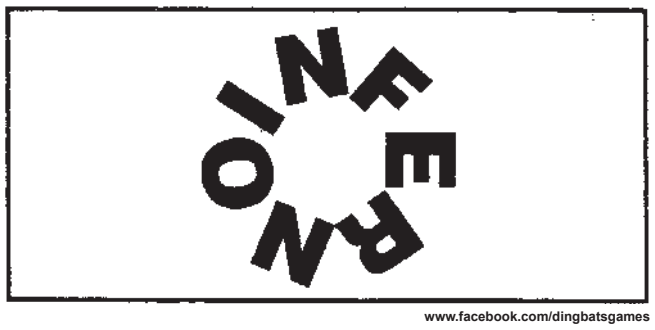

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James scores 29, Heat oust Knicks, 106-94

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James decided not to play in New York two summers ago. He won't be playing there any more this season, either.

The Knicks have been put away, and the Miami Heat are headed to the second round of the NBA playoffs.

James had 29 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade both scored 19 points and the Heat ousted the Knicks 106-94 in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference first-round series Wednesday night.

Miami won the series 4-1, and will meet Indiana in the East semifinals starting Sunday in Miami.

"We will savor this win tonight," James said. "And then we get to work tomorrow and get ready for Indiana."

Carmelo Anthony scored 35 points for the Knicks, including a spinning jumper over James at the end of the third quarter that pulled New York within 81-67.

It wasn't enough to stave off an all-too-familiar playoff result for Anthony, who was chosen two spots behind James and immediately ahead of Bosh and Wade in the 2003 NBA draft. Anthony has been in 11 postseason series, winning just two, the won-lost record of his teams in those games a mere 17-37.

Amare Stoudemire scored 14 points before fouling out, Landry Fields and J.R. Smith both scored 12 and Tyson Chandler grabbed 11 rebounds for New York.

Stoudemire fouled out with 4:48 left, and the Knicks put together one more run with hopes of saving the season. New York cut the margin to 11 points four times in a 2-minute span, and Miami answered every time, the last of those a 3-pointer by Shane Battier with 54 seconds left.

That sent the white seat covers flying in all corners of the arena, the fans knowing it was finally over. After the final horn, James and Anthony shared an embrace, like many other players.

AP

Miami Heat forward LeBron James (6) and guard Dwyane Wade (3) celebrate against the New York Knicks in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs, Wednesday, May 9, 2012, in Miami.

"It was fun, man," James said. "He's one of the most competitive players I've ever played against in a playoff series."

The first game day salvo came eight hours before tipoff, when Wade sent a verbal jab toward former teammate Mike Bibby.

"I know Mike has made more shots in this series than he made all last year. I know that. Send that to Mike," Wade said, laughing.

Bibby averaged 0.5 points in first-quarter appearances this season. That was before scoring eight in the opening minutes of Game 5, including a jumper over Wade that gave New York a quick 14-8 lead. It was one of New York's few moments to enjoy. James had 13 points on only six field-goal attempts by halftime, Wade shook off a scoreless first quarter with 12 in the second, and Miami went into the break leading 55-44.

The margin was less than 10 points for only 90 seconds of the third quarter. Stoudemire went to the bench with his fifth foul with 6:41 left in the third, and Miami went on an 11-2 spurt not long after that all but sealed the outcome. It was 67-58 when Fields made two free throws with 4:49 left in the quarter—and then the Heat's "Big Three" needed just 3 minutes to blow the game open.

Bosh and Wade combined for six points in that flurry, James the other five, including a 21-footer with 1:29 left to put Miami up 78-60.

For the Knicks, it was the 12th straight season without a playoff-series victory, extending the second-longest drought in franchise history. The last time New York advanced in the postseason came at Miami's expense in 2000 in the East semifinals.

Of the now five Heat-Knicks playoff matchups, this was the first not to be decided in an ultimate game.

New York's season started with great expectations. Not long after the lockout ended the Knicks acquired Chandler from Dallas, a move made possible by using the amnesty clause on Chauncey Billups.

Those moves were expected. Just about everything else that happened was not.

From the firing of coach Mike D'Antoni to the emergence of Jeremy Lin before he was sidelined after knee surgery, the Knicks had a roller-coaster ride. Interim coach Mike Woodson went 18-6 down the stretch of the regular season, giving the Knicks plenty of hope for pulling off a playoff upset.

Didn't happen. The Knicks wound up ending what was an NBA-record 13-game playoff losing streak by taking Game 4, and that was about it.

Rookie guard Iman Shumpert was lost in the third quarter of Game 1 to a torn knee ligament, Stoudemire sliced his left hand after taking out his frustrations on a metal-and-glass fire extinguisher case after a Game 2 loss, and Baron Davis shredded his knee so badly in Game 4 that he is expected to be out a year - at least.

Grizzlies 92, Clippers 80

In Memphis, Tenn., Marc Gasol scored 23 points and Zach Randolph added 19 as the Memphis Grizzlies avoided elimination by beating the Los Angeles Clippers, forcing a Game 6 in the Western Conference first-round series.

With Gasol and Randolph scoring early, the Grizzlies looked like the team that knocked off top-seeded San Antonio last spring and took Oklahoma City to seven games in the conference semifinals.

Game 6 is Friday night in Los Angeles. If the Grizzlies can win, Game 7 would be Sunday in Memphis.

Rudy Gay added 14 points for Memphis.

Mo Williams had 20 points for the Clippers while Chris Paul scored 19 and Blake Griffin had 15 points and 11 rebounds. Paul and Griffin both missed time in the fourth quarter with injuries.

Paul strained his right hip flexor and appeared to jam a finger, while Griffin hyperextended his left knee.

Paul almost singlehandedly gave the Clippers a chance to close out this series by scoring eight of his 27 points in overtime of Game 4.

This time, the four-time All-Star guard had just five points by halftime and scored nothing in this fourth quarter. He was grimacing early in the fourth quarter and was on the bench with the injured right groin. An injured groin kept him out of the Clippers' regular season finale, a loss to New York that cost Los Angeles the No. 4 seed.

The Clippers came in needing a win to clinch their first series since 2006 and advance to a second-round series against top-seeded San Antonio. But even though Paul has plenty of postseason experience, this was the first close-out game for the likes of Griffin, Randy Foye and DeAndre Jordan.

Los Angeles last led at 17-16 before a fastbreak layup by Tony Allen that was set up by a long pass from Gasol put Memphis ahead to stay at 18-17 with 5:40 left in the first quarter.

The Clippers closed the third quarter with a 14-2 run and got within six twice to conjure up memories of Memphis blowing a 27-point lead in Game 1. Foye pulled the Clippers within 85-79 on a layup with 55.7 seconds left.

With CP3 on the bench, that was as close as they would get.

In the arena nicknamed the Grindhouse in honor of the Grizzlies' bruising, blue-collar style, Memphis pounded the ball into the paint and banged on the Clippers all game long. The Grizzlies outscored Los Angeles 48-26 in the paint and had a 42-35 edge in rebounds.

Griffin twice limped to the bench, once late in the first quarter with what appeared to be a ripped shoe. Then he went down under the basket late in the third after his legs tangled with Gasol's, and Griffin kept rubbing and holding his left knee. He walked gingerly to the bench, but returned. It was the same knee that cost him his first season in the NBA.

Gasol scored 12 points in the first quarter. Randolph, who looked nothing like the double-double machine of last season's playoffs, hit his first six shots in scoring 15 points while grabbing five rebounds as Memphis led 36-22 at the end of the first quarter.

The Grizzlies led 57-42 at halftime and led by as many as 24 before the Clippers tried to make it interesting again.

This physical series went to a new level in the second quarter when Eric Bledsoe of the Clippers ran over to defend Quincy Pondexter and bumped him to the court. Bledsoe then heaved the ball up into the air, drawing a technical foul. That was the first of five for the Clippers with four coming in the third quarter as Paul, Williams and coach Vinny Del Negro let their frustration boil over.

Ex-dealer defends inconsistencies at Clemens trial

WASHINGTON (AP)—Trying to explain why his book suggested one thing and his testimony said something else, convicted drug dealer Kirk Radomski held up a copy of his 246-page tome called "Bases Loaded" while on the witness stand and gave as good as he got from one of Roger Clemens' lawyers.

"Did you ever write a book?" said Radomski, who then issued a challenge to attorney Michael Attanasio. "Write a book! See how they turn things."

Clemens' legal team used the book Wednesday to try to raise doubts about an old, torn label that Radomski said was used for a shipment of human growth hormone to Clemens' home about 10 years ago. Clemens' Houston address is on the label—a seemingly tangible connection between the seven-time Cy Young Award winner and performance-enhancingdrugs—and the name on the label is that of Brian McNamee, Clemens' former strength coach.

McNamee, whose much-anticipated testimony is expected soon, has said he injected Clemens with steroids and HGH. Clemens, a former standout baseball pitcher, is on trial for allegedly lying to Congress in 2008 when he denied using either substance.

Federal agents failed to find the torn label when they searched Radomski's house in 2005. Radomski said he discovered it about three years later, under his bedroom television set along with some other shipping labels and autographed photos of Clemens and Clemens' former teammate, Andy Pettitte.

"I have no idea how they got there," said Radomski, theorizing they most likely slid under the TV at some point.

Attanasio wasn't buying it. He read aloud a passage from "Bases Loaded: The Inside Story of the Steroid Era in Baseball by the Central Figure in the Mitchell Report"—a first-person book about selling steroids to professional baseball players. The book helped pay off Radomski's debts. Concerning the label with Clemens' address, the book states: "I'd obviously hidden it there when I began to worry that the government was going to come after me and had then forgotten about it."

Asked on Wednesday if he had hidden the label, Radomski insisted: "I didn't hide nothing." He went on indicate that some things in the book are exaggerated or overdramatized because he was told he needed nuggets that "would sound good." He said the book was dictated to a writer in a series of interviews, not under oath as he was in the courtroom. He added that he also didn't like the book's cover, which depicts a bottle of pills inside a baseball glove.

The agent who led the search of Radomski's home testified earlier in the trial that no one looked under the TV set because there was so much evidence—18 boxes' worth—lying out in the open.

Radomski, a former New York Mets batboy who became a drug supplier to major league players and then a cooperating witness after he got caught, said the shipment to Clemens' house was for two kits of HGH with "about 50-100 needles."

The label displayed in court reads "Hold for B. McNamee" and doesn't mention Clemens. But, in his book, Radomski incorrectly wrote that the label said: "Brian McNamee, c/o Roger Clemens."

"That was a lie," Attanasio said.

Radomski responded that it wasn't a lie, because he might have written Clemens' name on the box underneath the label. When Attanasio suggested that part of the book was inaccurate, Radomski agreed: "That's not correct in the book."

Rays rally late to beat Yankees, 4-1

NEW YORK (AP) — Tampa Bay's Matt Joyce hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning to complete the Rays late rally and a 4-1 win over the New York Yankees on Wednesday.

New York's fill-in closer David Robertson (0-1) had escaped a bases-loaded jam the previous night in his first save chance since taking over as closer. But on Wednesday, New York got a chilling dose of real-life reality without injured star closer Mariano Rivera.

With the Yankees clinging to a 1-0 lead, Sean Rodriguez singled on Robertson's first pitch and went to third when Brandon Allen singled on the next delivery.

Ben Zobrist walked and, one out later, B.J. Upton hit a sacrifice fly to tie the score. Joyce then put the Rays ahead.

Blue Jays 5, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Adam Lind hit a two-run homer after being demoted from the cleanup spot before the game, as Toronto powered past Oakland.

J.P. Arencibia homered leading off the seventh and Edwin Encarnacion started the eighth with his 10th homer, ending an 0-for-21 funk and helping Toronto snap a three-game skid.

White Sox 8, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Jake Peavy coasted for six innings, steering Chicago past Cleveland and to a split of the four-game series.

Peavy (4-1) struck out five and had little difficulty with the Indians, who didn't get a runner past second until he gave up his sole run in the the seventh. He has been overpowering in his last five starts, posting a 1.36 ERA.

Adam Dunn connected for his 10th homer, a two-run shot, in the first inning off Jeanmar Gomez (2-2) and the White Sox added six runs in the fourth off Cleveland's starter, who was tagged for eight runs.

Mariners 2, Tigers 1

In Seattle, John Jaso lined an RBI single over Detroit's drawn-in infield in the eighth inning for the tiebreaking run as Seattle edged Detroit.

Jaso's single was hit so hard that the shortstop barely had time to react before it was landing in the outfield and Michael Saunders was jogging home with the go-ahead run. Saunders had led off the eighth with a double.

Mariners starter Jason Vargas (4-2) threw a season-high eight innings, striking out six. Brandon League walked the first batter in the ninth but got the last three outs for the save.

Angels 6, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Ervin Santana pitched 7 1-3 innings and got some run support for the first time in his past six starts, recording a win against Minnesota.

Santana (1-6) gave up two runs and Albert Pujols had two hits and two RBIs for the Angels.

Twins starter Carl Pavano (2-3) was knocked out of the game before there was an out in the fifth inning. He gave up five runs in his shortest outing of the season.

Royals 4, Red Sox 3

In Kansas City, Bruce Chen picked up his first victory of the season as Kansas City narrowly beat Boston.

Chen (1-4) gave up seven hits in 6 2-3 innings while striking out five and walking none. The Royals were winless in his first six starts this season.

Jonathan Broxton worked around a leadoff single and walk in the ninth inning for his seventh save in eight opportunities.

Alcides Escobar drove in the go-ahead run for the Royals.

Dodgers 6, Giants 2

In Los Angeles, the Dodgers' Tony Gwynn Jr. hit a go-ahead three-run triple for that led the Dodgers to a win over the San Francisco Giants.

Gwynn's hit came off Giants ace Tim Lincecum (2-3), who gave up four runs in five innings. He struck out eight, including National League home run leader Matt Kemp three times, but that wasn't enough.

The Dodgers have won six of their past seven series at home heading into a day off Thursday before Colorado arrives for a weekend series.

Los Angeles' Jamey Wright (2-2) pitched two perfect innings and struck out two for the win.

Cardinals 7, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Matt Carpenter lined a go-ahead double in the sixth inning to lift St. Louis over Arizona, completing a three-game sweep.

Allen Craig homered to cap a four-run burst in the ninth that sealed the win and a fourth straight Cardinals victory.

St. Louis starter Kyle Lohse (5-1) allowed one run in five innings.

Arizona has lost five straight at home and seven of eight overall.

Diamondbacks starter Wade Miley (3-1) pitched 5 2-3 innings, allowing 10 hits. He lost for the first time in eight appearances.

Cubs 1, Braves 0

In Chicago, pitcher Paul Maholm won his fourth straight start, guiding Chicago to a tight win over Atlanta.

Maholm (4-2) pitched seven scoreless innings and combined with two relievers in the shutout. Rafael Dolis recorded the save.

The lone run came from Bryan LaHair's single in the seventh inning.

Braves starter Tim Hudson (1-1) lost despite allowing only one run in seven innings.

Mets 10, Phillies 6

In Philadelphia, Ike Davis hit a three-run homer and Andres Torres also connected as New York completed its first three-game sweep in Philadelphia in six years.

Phillies starter Cliff Lee lefts with a 4-2 lead but reliever Kyle Kendrick (0-3) soon gave that up, as the five-time defending NL East champions dropped a season-worst four games under .500.

New York's Tim Byrdak (2-0) retired the only batter he faced to end the sixth and earn the win.

Pirates 4, Nationals 2

In Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen had four hits, including his second home run in two nights, to lead Pittsburgh over Washington.

Pirates reliever Brad Lincoln (2-0) earned the win after replacing starter Erik Bedard, who was lifted three pitches into the second inning due to back spasms.

Nationals starter Ross Detwiler (3-2) allowed three runs in six innings for Washington, which has dropped three straight.

Marlins 5, Astros 3, 12 innings

In Houston, Omar Infante's bases-loaded, two-run single in the 12th inning lifted Miami past Houston.

Logan Morrison singled in the 12th before a walk and a groundout left runners on the corners. Reliever David Carpenter (0-2) walkeda batter with two outs to load the bases and set up Infante's game-winner.

The victory improves the Marlins to 8-1 on their nine-game road trip.

Miami's Ryan Webb (2-1) pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings for the win.

Reds 2, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Joey Votto's RBI double broke a scoreless tie in the ninth, lifting Cincinnati over Milwaukee.

Drew Stubbs singled off Brewers closer John Axford (0-2) with two outs, and Votto lined a ball over the glove of the second baseman to score Stubbs from first. Brandon Phillips then hit a single, driving in Votto.

Cincinnati's Aroldis Chapman (3-0) pitched the eighth for the win and after Sean Marshall gave up a homer and two two-out singles, he was replaced by Logan Ondrusek, who loaded the bases but got a pop out to earn his first save.

It was the 1,500th major league victory for Reds manager Dusty Baker.

Rockies 6, Padres 2

In San Diego, Christian Friedrich pitched six solid innings to win his major league debut as Colorado ended a five-game losing skid by beating San Diego.

Friedrich (1-0) held San Diego to one earned run while striking out seven and walking only one.

Jason Giambi and Wilin Rosario hit RBI doubles off the top of the fences for the Rockies, who got at least one hit from each batter.

Colorado scored four unearned runs in the sixth against Anthony Bass (1-4) after shortstop Andy Parrino committed a fielding error with one out.

Peterson progressing; Vikings stress caution

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—The Minnesota Vikings were running sprints during one of their workouts a couple of weeks ago, and Adrian Peterson was watching off to the side.

Salivating like a kid asking his dad if they can stop for ice cream on the drive home, Peterson turned to head athletic trainer Eric Sugarman.

"He had a look on his face like, `I know what you want to do,'" Peterson said.

Permission granted, Peterson took the brace off his left knee and jumped in line with the rest of the running backs and wide receivers.

"I finished in first place," he said.

Roughly four months into his post-surgical rehabilitation from the torn anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments he suffered in a game last Dec. 24, Peterson is still plenty fast. He's exercising without pain or problems and ahead of the average pace for this injury recovery.

That doesn't mean he's assured of being in the backfield when the Vikings start the regular season Sept. 9, no matter how determined his mind or how supernatural his body might be.

"I'm not going to say with certainty that Adrian is going to play in our first game," Sugarman said. "That wouldn't be fair to me to him or to this organization. That's a long way off from now, and we certainly have a long road to get to that point."

Peterson, though, left no doubt. One of the most optimistic and confident players in the NFL, Peterson said he's set on playing from the start—and not in a limited role. "Full throttle," was his prediction.

"I'll be disappointed if I'm not," Peterson said.

So the Vikings must be able to find the balance between caution toward their franchise player's long-term health and acknowledgment of Peterson's unique healing ability and physical skill.

"My whole life, I've been setting my goals and pushing forward. I've been successful with doing that. I've been smart. Don't get me wrong. I've been smart about the process," Peterson said.

Said Sugarman: "He realizes now that there's too much to lose by doing something foolish."

The Vikings opened part of Peterson's regular rehab drills to the media on Wednesday, with more than three-dozen reporters and photographers watching him run around at the indoor field at Winter Park. Peterson had the operation Dec. 30, and Sugarman said he's now safe for any activity. The current goal is to restore function, comfort and confidence in the knee and to bring his conditioning back to normal.

Peterson estimated his explosiveness is at about 50 percent. His ability to change direction and speed ahead out of a cut will be the last and most critical piece of his recovery. For now, at least, he said his confidence is "light years" ahead of where it was four months ago.

There's no plan for exactly when he can put pads on and practice with the team once formal practices begin later this summer and, Sugarman said, no point in putting a timetable on how long he'll need between his first practice and clearance to play in a real game.

They're not wasting any time, though, as evidenced by Wednesday's drills.

Sugarman rolled him a soccer ball as he shuffled from side to side in a basketball defense pose and tossed it back. Then Peterson ran around in a circle before practicing his explosion out of a pivot. He ran with a slight limp the width of the field. Then he high-jumped onto stacks of boxes. The rapid-fire pace of the activities left Peterson needing a rest, and Sugarman teased him about stalling.

If there's any let up, well, the return to elite running back status can only take longer.

"Those guys know my limit, and they push me to it," Peterson said.

Judge in Sandusky case weighs defense subpoenas

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP)—The judge in Jerry Sandusky's criminal case Wednesday did not immediately resolve remaining disputes over what information the defense is entitled to from schools, child services agencies and others, but he said he wanted to swiftly resolve the disagreements and push the case toward trial.

Judge John Cleland also did not rule on lawyer Joe Amendola's new request to delay the start of trial, currently scheduled for June 5, but he did open a pretrial hearing Wednesday by noting the "trial is approaching" for the former Penn State assistant football coach.

Cleland said he may throw out parts of some defense subpoenas rather than quash entire demands. He also suggested he would review some of the documentation in private to try to quickly resolve some of the disagreements.

Pennsylvania law, the judge said, contains a "normally predominant prinicple that we should use all legitimate means to ascertain the truth."

Sandusky, 68, is largely confined to his State College home to await the start of his trial on 52 criminal counts involving 10 boys over 15 years, and was not in the courtroom for the proceeding, which lasted less than two hours. He has denied the allegations.

Amendola has made dozens of requests for records or other material, much of it background information on the accusers, including school transcripts, medical records going back to birth, Internet search histories, Facebook account details, employment-related documents and cellphone and Twitter records. Going into the hearing prosecutors were prepared to review the state of the requests to the attorney general's office, but Amendola appeared to take them by surprise by announcing there were no remaining discovery disputes with them.

The requests to schools, agencies and others consumed the bulk of the hearing. Cleland said some elements of the defense subpoenas may be too broad, but he also suggested to lawyers that he would likely just black out the parts they do not have to provide.

In some cases, lawyers said they did not have information being sought, or were willing to turn over specific records. In other cases, they argued that material was exempt from disclosure.

"Any information we get, we will keep in the strictest confidence," Amendola said. "We have taken great lengths to keep things confidential that we receive that are private in nature."

Amendola told the judge the defense is looking for "any evidence that these students suffered from behavioral issues, mental health issues, prior to their contact with The Second Mile or the defendant." Sandusky founded The Second Mile as a charity for at-risk youth and met many of his alleged victims there.

The charity's lawyer, Howard Rosenthal, said it shouldn't be forced to turn over some of the material and noted that two of the alleged victims object to any disclosure of their records to Sandusky.

Amendola said that "a number" of the accusers have criminal records and that he suspects prosecutors will try to argue the accusers' legal problems stem from the abuse they endured as children.

Amendola said in his request to delay the trial that the defense team needs more time to find and interview witnesses, and that pending criminal charges against two potential witnesses, Penn State administrators Gary Schultz and Tim Curley, have made them unavailable as witnesses in June.

Jim Koval, a spokesman for the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, said after the hearing that Cleland did not intend to rule on the delay request on Wednesday.

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Roach: Best sparring ever

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BOXING

LOS ANGELES—Manny Pacquiao put on a sparring show for chief trainer Freddie Roach before he left for Los Angeles last Sunday.

The eight-division world champion and sparmate Russian Ruslan Provodnikov poured it all in their four-round afternoon session at the MP Towers gym in Sampaloc, delighting Roach no end.

"Best sparring ever," Roach told sportswriters in yesterday's sendoff party for Team Pacquiao held at the Pan Pacific Manila hotel lounge. "Both had their moments, both were aggressive. I'm very happy."

Roach, however, said a lot more hard work is in store for Pacquiao when they resume preparations for unbeaten American Timothy Bradley at his Wild Card Gym in Hollywood on Monday (Tuesday in Manila).

"I've got two more vigorous guys waiting there," bared Roach, adding that one totes a 12-0 record.

Pacquiao, who was not even able to eat and stayed only for 15 minutes to catch his 6 p.m. television show at the nearby San Andres gym, said he's prepared for the tough grind.

"This will be harder (than his Baguio training). "I'm willing to spar with anybody except a heavyweight."

Reminded of the Floyd Mayweather Jr.—Miguel Cotto showdown in Las Vegas today, Pacquiao, who also sparred with lightweight Rustam Nugaev, said Mayweather may be in for a surprise as Cotto is wily and strong.

"I'm picking Cotto, but I won't be betting," said Pacquiao.

For his part, Roach picks Mayweather over Cotto, whom Pacquiao stopped in the 12th round in 2010.

Pacquiao

REZNE

From Page

next year to know that more and more swimmers in the UH-Manoa team have U.S. Olympic Trials cuts," he said.

Aside from improving his times, the Marianas High School alumnus said he's also competing in New Caledonia so he could represent his home islands.

"I would just like to represent the CNMI well among the other nations there. Often we focus too much on racing when it's the friendships between swimmers that matter a great deal too. It's going to take a miracle to medal in Oceania champs, but I'm going to give it my best shot," he wrote in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Wong said because of budgetary constraints, the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association and the CNMI's sports governing body for swimming, Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation, initially were not supposed to send anyone to the 2012 Oceania Swimming Championships.

"I pleaded to NMSF and NMASA and coordinated with Hiro Kimura (Tsunami Saipan head coach) and coach Bill 'Mister' Sakovich (Saipan Swim Club co-founder) to get me to go to Oceania Champs. Guam and Palau and other islands get to represent their countries in Oceania against powerhouses New Zealand and Australia, but the CNMI didn't send one in the 2010 champs. So, after a couple of emails, John Hirsh (NMISF president) and Mike White (NMASA president) nominated me to the Oceania swimming board and I was selected to go represent the CNMI. After last summer I also realized that I should live up to every opportunity to swim and take those chances—a swim career can only be lived for so long, so I should give it my all," he said.

To help finance the trip, which is expected to total more than $3,000, Wong has enlisted the help of NMISF and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan.

Aside from the donated funds, Wong also promised to personally fundraise alongside Tsunami Saipan swim team members and his family after the meet to return the "borrowed" money.

"I would like to thank NMASA and NMSF and its members for selecting me to go to the 2012 Oceania Swimming Championships as I am very honored to do so. I would also like to thank Tsunami Saipan for their help, support, and encouragement for me. I would also like to thank John Hirsh for selecting me to go and for allocating funds from a very tight budget. Mike White also helped nominate me for going. Lastly, this wouldn't be possible without the help of my mom, Emelita Wong, and coach Bill Sakovich for helping me coordinate my complex flight schedule and hotel details. I also thank God for blessing me with such an opportunity," he said.

KANA

From Page

earlier this season, another first in school history.

Aikawa, who played NCAA Division II golf and tennis for University of Hawaii-Manoa, said coaching the team to the championship was an amazing experience.

"I met the girls in February and we set up our goals for this season: winning the ILH (private schools league) and the state championship. Iolani School has never in its history won either one, so to win both of those titles was very thrilling. We couldn't have asked for a better season. I have an amazing team of girls who are all not only talented but such disciplined athletes," she said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The Northern Marianas Academy alumnus, who now works for John Hancock Financial Network, said her coaching philosophy has remained the same, which is always to promote playing as a team.

"Even though both golf and tennis are individual sports, having played tennis for the CNMI and UH-Manoa has taught me that there is nothing more rewarding than winning as a team. Whenever I played for the CNMI in the Micronesian Games or the Pacific Games, there was so much love and support from Jeff [Race], our coach and captain, and our teammates that you get this strong desire to win for team and for the CNMI," she said.

Aikawa said team spirit was one of factors that helped the Iolani girls varsity win the private schools and the state championships.

"I sincerely believe that one factor in our success this season was the fact that there is such a strong bond between the girls and they battled as a team. I feel so lucky to have been a part of that family. I have a lot of passion and love for competing and coaching and I hope to keep doing both as long as I can," she said.

Aikawa won a number of girls and women's open championships in the CNMI, including four straight 18-and-under girls singles titles in the CNMI Junior Tennis Championships

She also helped the CNMI win a bevy of medals in the Micronesian Games and Pacific Games. She got her start in tennis under former Pacific Oceania Davis Cup team captain Jeff Race.

The daughter of Yasuko and Kiyoshi of Tokyo, Japan, Aikawa was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada but was raised on Saipan where she honed her tennis skills. She has a brother, Kei.

LADY

From Page 40

Lady Manta Rays 10, Lady Dolphins 5

SSHS' Tara Ramon and Dayna Pena cracked a couple of hits mixed in between four walks as their teammates stole seven bases as they built a commanding 6-0 lead in the first inning.

Lady Manta Rays' Daylinne Joseph then drove in Ramon for another run in the second inning before MHS finally hit the board.

The Lady Dolphins' thick of the order peppered four hits for four runs in the third inning. Florita Billy, Shanna Flores, Nicole Beltau, and Jayna Lizama all hit their way on and touched all four.

MHS left SSHS with a runner at third base in the bottom frame, but then went three up and three down at the plate in the fourth and fifth innings, while the Lady Manta Rays mustered a run from Jinky Kintaro to close the fifth inning to double up its rivals, 8-4.

MHS only mustered one run in the top of the sixth and were stood up by the Lady Manta Rays' defense in the final stand.

Aside, from the third inning, SSHS did a great job backing up pitcher Cathy Amandus in the other six frames. The group caught eight put outs and stranded seven runners and let only one to the plate in the rest of the contest.

Ramon batted 2-for-3 with three runs, a walk, and three stolen bases.

Lady Manta Rays 8, Lady Knights 3

SSHS spurted in front, 4-0, in the opening frame off four hits. Cathy Amandus led off with a hit and made it around, while Ramon drew a walk and was driven to the plate by Daylinne Joseph who was escorted home by Keanah Deleon Guerrero. Stephanie Espayo finished the spell with an RBI single that scored Deleon Guerrero.

Lady Manta Rays pitcher Amandus started the match with ice in her veins and held the Lady Knights scoreless for the first three innings. She only walked two batters and her teammates did a good job making MCS earn its way on base in her strong start.

SSHS' Jovanna Okaruru scored off a fielder's choice in the third inning and the count shifted to 5-1 soon after as both teams posted up a run in the fourth frame.

Rayann Yamagata drove home Carey Demapan in the top portion, while SSHS' Nipi Laniyo answered with an RBI smash that scored Dayna Pena in the bottom half.

MCS' Kaylani Lebria belted an RBI triple that brought in Amy Taylor early in the fifth, but the Lady Manta Rays always seemed to have an answer as Okaruru singled on to start the bottom frame and worked her way to the dish again.

MCS then came up empty in the sixth and the Lady Manta Rays tacked on another run that brought the score to 8-2 with three outs to go in regulation. MCS only mustered one run in the final stand.

Winning pitcher Amandus went all seven innings and gave up three earned runs off eight hits and three walks with three strikeouts.

SSHS' Espayo and Okaruru both batted 2-for-3. The latter and Pena each scored twice.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	20	11	.645	—
Baltimore	19	11	.633	1/2
Toronto	17	14	.548	3
New York	16	14	.533	3 1/2
Boston	12	18	.400	7 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	17	13	.567	—
Detroit	15	15	.500	2
Chicago	15	17	.469	3
Kansas City	11	19	.367	6
Minnesota	8	22	.267	9

West Division

Texas	20	10	.667	—
Oakland	16	15	.516	4 1/2
Seattle	15	18	.455	6 1/2
Los Angeles	14	18	.438	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	18	12	.600	—
Atlanta	19	13	.594	—
New York	18	13	.581	1/2
Miami	16	15	.516	2 1/2
Philadelphia	14	18	.438	5

Central Division

St. Louis	20	11	.645	—
Cincinnati	16	14	.533	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	14	16	.467	5 1/2
Houston	14	17	.452	6
Chicago	13	18	.419	7
Milwaukee	13	18	.419	7

West Division

Los Angeles	20	11	.645	—
San Francisco	15	16	.484	5
Arizona	14	18	.438	6 1/2
Colorado	13	17	.433	6 1/2
San Diego	11	21	.344	9 1/2

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	5	57	30	156	31.2
James, MIA	4	36	33	110	27.5
Nowitzki, DAL	4	34	38	107	26.8
Durant, OKC	4	35	27	106	26.5
Anthony, NYK	4	37	28	104	26.0
Paul, LAC	4	33	22	94	23.5
Westbrook, OKC	4	34	17	89	22.3
Pierce, BOS	5	37	27	109	21.8
Gay, MEM	4	30	23	87	21.8
Wade, MIA	4	36	12	86	21.5
Griffin, LAC	4	33	20	86	21.5
Granger, IND	5	40	13	107	21.4
Parker, SAN	4	30	23	84	21.0
Davis, ORL	5	39	17	95	19.0
Holiday, PHL	5	35	18	95	19.0
Harden, OKC	4	20	27	73	18.3
Jefferson, UTA	4	36	1	73	18.3
Bynum, LAL	5	35	20	90	18.0
Conley, MEM	4	22	18	70	17.5
J. Johnson, ATL	5	31	17	86	17.2

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Noah, CHI	19	26	.731
Ibaka, OKC	20	31	.645
Bynum, LAL	35	58	.603
Griffin, LAC	33	58	.569
Stoudemire, NYK	16	29	.552
Hawes, PHL	23	42	.548
Wade, MIA	36	66	.545
Collison, IND	19	35	.543
Hibbert, IND	23	43	.535
Jefferson, UTA	36	68	.529

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Smith, ATL	4	9	50	59	14.8
Millsap, UTA	4	17	27	44	11.0
Hibbert, IND	5	22	32	54	10.8
Bynum, LAL	5	15	37	52	10.4
Faried, DEN	5	17	32	49	9.8
Garnett, BOS	5	5	44	49	9.8
McGee, DEN	5	17	31	48	9.6
West, IND	5	10	38	48	9.6
Favors, UTA	4	14	24	38	9.5
Davis, ORL	5	23	23	46	9.2

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	4	51	12.8
Paul, LAC	4	35	8.8
Conley, MEM	4	30	7.5
Nelson, ORL	5	33	6.6
Parker, SAN	4	26	6.5
Miller, DEN	5	32	6.4
Kidd, DAL	4	24	6.0
Lawson, DEN	5	30	6.0
James, MIA	4	21	5.3
Holiday, PHL	5	24	4.8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saints steal RBC U25 title from top seed Runnin' Rebels

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A last-second tip-in at the buzzer lifted the Saints past the favored Runnin' Rebels in the Rollers Basketball Club's U25 fundraiser tournament championship held last Tuesday evening at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The Saints are comprised of Arvin Avila, Joseph Basa, Donovan Brennan, Dave Camacho Jr., Pedro Castro, Richard Cruz, Travis Eubanks, Leo Galarse, Vince Iglesias, Wens Namelo, and L.J. and Luizi Reyes.

Like the first time the teams met in the earlier rounds, Tuesday's finals was a very tight and back-and-forth match for all 32 minutes.

The Saints scrambled out to an early 16-15 edge in the opening 16 minutes built off a pair of 3-pointers by L.J. Reyes.

Eubanks, Castro, Iglesias, and Luizi Reyes chipped in on the action. Brennan also made his way to the line for a bucket.

Trevor Ogumoro led the Rebels with eight points that went with a couple of baskets from Ben Lisua and a three-ball by Ed Camacho in the first stanza as it was still anyone's game at mid-point.

The Saints transition setup also allowed them to hustle down a lot of loose balls as they clung to their lead for the majority of the closing half.

The Rebels never went away, but still looked a little out of sync, but they kept clawing and eventually swiped the lead with about four minutes left in regulation.

The Saints contained Ogumoro early on in the period, but he pressed on and found his way to the hoop for a handful of big points in the clutch that pushed the Rebels ahead, 33-32, with just a fraction of a minute on the clock.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saints players pose for a team photo after winning the championship of the Rollers Basketball Club's U25 fundraiser tournament championship earlier in the week.

Saints' Galarse was all over the place and led the squad with seven points at crunch time, but missed two critical free throws with just four seconds remaining that could have either won it or at least forced some bonus time.

After Galarse's first shot misfired and his second try clanged off the mark, it looked rather dim for the Saints. Yet somehow their prayers were answered as the ball bounced right into the hands of a teammate who botched the first put-back attempt, but Camacho Jr. was still home under the basket and immediately went back up for a bang-bang play at the buzzer that fell through.

Some spectators in the crowd were not exactly certain whether or not the second tip-in attempt was in fact released in time, but the referees reiterated the basket was good.

It was a tough break for the Rebels who advanced through the tournament in first place and took the first round against their rivals, 37-35, in overtime during the upper bracket semifinals held back on April 30.

The Saints earned its rematch with the Rebels after eliminating third place Saipan I, 45-39, in the lower bracket semifinals back on May 2.

RBC's younger Saipan II squad also participated in the event.

Saipan I downed the Track Starz, 38-29, in the very first match held on April 29.

Later that evening the Saints snuck past Saipan II, 32-39, while the Rebels knocked off Saipan I, 39-27, to set the stage for the upper bracket semis pairing.

Track Starz then ousted Saipan II, 54-30, the next day, but forfeited away its chance for a finals berth to Saipan I.

In evaluation of the overall execution of the caging, RBC head coach Joe Diaz shared, "All in all, I think the tournament ran smoothly. Our guys have been conducting games for a while now and have developed a system that continues to improve. The weather gave us some problems and we had to make scheduling adjustments, but the volunteers pulled together and made it happen.."

Diaz added, "As for the games, they were very physical and competitive, and the older players did a good job maintaining good sportsmanship…fighting was never an issue on the court and I want to commend them for keeping their composure and putting on a good show for my younger players."

Usually Diaz's U25 division players are the ones conducting events for the younger guys, but this time some of the teenagers took part in conducting the group's activities from running the game clock, to refereeing and keeping score.

A number of his even younger players often held practices before the tournament matches and stuck around to watch the more experienced aspiring ballers.

"It was good to see maturity on the court from both the older and younger players and my even younger guys got to see it in action after getting in practice sessions before the show" said Daiz.

Proceeds of the tournament went toward two RBC U14 squads' trip to Manila, Philippines where they will appear in the Pacific Rim Manila Goodwill Tournament in July. This is the club's first-ever trip to the Philippines.

With that said, be on the lookout for a youth U12 to U14 type caging in the not so distant future.

The RBC is just under 100 strong and growing, especially in the younger age groups. They also openly welcome more female participants of all ages.

The RBC is still looking for potential banner sponsors who would like to offer their support of the biggest year round basketball youth organization on Saipan.

While the fundraiser tourney was considered a success, the RBC, however, is still in need of support to help provide chaperones for their big trip.

Contact RBC's Joe Diaz at 285-4141 for more information or email joediaz41@gmail.com. You can also visit www.rollers-basketballclub.yolasite.com or look them up on Facebook.

Saints 34 – Galarse 7, L.J. Reyes 6, Castro 5, Camacho Jr. 4, Eubanks 4, Lu. Reyes 4, Brennan 2, Iglesias 2.

Runnin' Rebels 33 – Ogumoro 13, E Camacho 9, Lisua 4, Norita 3, Flores 2, Litulumar 2.

Scoring by halves: 16-15, 34-33.

CNMI May Masters set for May 26-27

This year marks the 30th staging of the CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament, which will be held at the Saipan Bowling Center from May 25 to 27.

The first day of the tournament will be held on May 25 and will feature singles (three games), doubles (three games), and team (four players and three games) events.

Registration will begin at 1:30pm, while the singles game is set at 2pm. The doubles and team events will begin at 4:15pm and 6:30pm.

The singles, doubles, and team competitions will continue on May 26 from 9am to 2pm. Then at 6pm, the centerpiece event—the May Masters—women's division, will start with female keglers playing 12 games.

The May Masters culminates with the men's masters on May 27. The 12-game event will start at 9am.

In both women's and men's masters, there should be at least 12 bowlers registered to proceed with the competition and the bowler to record the highest pinfalls wins the masters tournament.

The three-day May Masters is sponsored by Budweiser, MARPAC, Jet Holdings/ Saipan Bowling Center, Shirley's Coffee Shop, and IT&E. It concludes with an awards ceremony at 6:30pm at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

For more information, call Ross or Gigi Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com or Robert Talavera at the Saipan Bowling Center at 234-6420. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Blue Haus caging opener pushed back to May 19

The 2012 Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League has postponed the starting date of its second season an extra week to give some of the teams more time to acquire uniforms.

Opening night is now set for 5pm on May 19 at Garapan Basketball Court. All teams are requested to be present during the opening ceremony and come ready to play as the debut pairings will also be determined in the lottery.

Following the opener procedures, the first game is set for 6pm with an 8:30pm night tiff.

This year's competing teams include defending champions Cell-Pro, NVM, Suriban, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Mawati, Mobil, Concep One/Tae Woo, Cargo Express, Satbahi, DLX Right Guard, Ashley, the Runnin' Rebels, Hip Hop Thunder, Star Water, and Saipan Hardware. The field will be divided into two divisions.

The game schedule will be released upon confirmation.

For more information, contact Dante Olivos at 233-1721 or 989-6286. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

Two-way tie for No. 1 spot in Obyan

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The 19th Hole Bar's Titans and Jonny's Bar & Grill's Team SCS are knotted up at the helm of the Saipan Billiards Association's Obyan Division standings after the conclusion of Tuesday's 2012 Winter/Summer Budweiser Open 8-Ball League season matchups.

The Titans defeated Fotten Palau (102-119), 12-5, on the road at Joe's Steakhouse, while Team SCS endured a, 7-10, downfall to the Agingan Division runner-up Docomo Pacific-Home Boyz (160-61) in an inter-league road match held at Poseidon. Both squads were left with identical win-loss records of 110-111.

In other results, Poseidon's Yang-Ku (109-112) outlasted Jonny's fourth place Crazy 8 (105-116), 9-8, on the road to remain in third place, while 19th Holes' Poksu (77-144) upset Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's fifth place Shark Attack (103-118), 11-6, at home.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 19th Hole Bar's Titans downed Fotten Palau in last Tuesday's SBA Budweiser Open 8-Ball League Obyan pairing held at Joe's Steakhouse to move into a tie for first place with Team SCS of Jonny's Bar & Grill.

Meanwhile, the IT&E Voyagers continue to carry the torch in the Agingan Division and improved its card to 167-54 with a swift 17-0 shutout win against Bammy's Boom-Boom (42-179) in inter-league play on the road.

Other Agingan results include New Saipan Aluminum's third-ranked Hustlers (152-69) toppling Joe's fifth place Ocean Warriors (115-106), 12-5, at home in Utopia Sports Bar; and the IT&E Incredibles (149-72) brushing off Obyan's The Water Front (46-175), 15-2, in an inter-league road pairing.

Last Tuesday marked the end of the regular season. The traditional postseason Budweiser Cup tournament is next on tap. However, the schedules are still being formulated and details will be released upon confirmation.

James scores 29, Heat oust Knicks, 106-94

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Saints steal RBC U25 title from top seed Runnin' Rebels

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Rezne eyes Olympic Trials times in Noumea

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rezne Wong, seen here racing in the 200m IM event in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau in 2010, will see action in five events in the 2012 Oceania Swimming Championships in Noumea, New Caledonia.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rezne Wong hopes to get under U.S. Olympic Trials times when he represents the CNMI in the 2012 Oceania Swimming Championships from May 28 to June 2 at the Noumea's Aquatic Centre.

The University of Hawaii-Manoa swimmer and 2010 NMASA Athlete of the Year will compete in five events in New Caledonia—200m individual medley, 200m breaststroke, 100m butterfly, and 50m and 100m breaststroke.

It's in the first two events that the Marine Biology junior wants to make the U.S. Olympic Trials grade.

"I really want to cut 2:10 in the 200m IM and cut 2:23 in the 200m breaststroke. It would be great if I could get under the U.S. Olympic Trials cut of 2:20.79 in the 200m breaststroke. I particularly won't be competing in the U.S. trials but it would be great for the team atmosphere

See REZNE on Page 38

Kana coaches HS team to Hawaii golf championships

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kana Aikawa, left, helped stir 'Iolani School girls varsity golf team to the HHSAA Championships earlier this month

CNMI tennis great Kana Aikawa is making a name for herself coaching golf in Hawaii after mentoring a bunch of teenagers to a high school varsity state championship.

The 27-year-old Aikawa, the coach for the 'Iolani School girls varsity golf team, helped the Lady Raiders win the HHSAA Championships earlier this month at the Wailua Golf Course in Lihue in Kaua'i.

The team was made up of one senior and four freshmen—Marissa Chow, Rose Huang, Hana Furuichi, Keilyn Ing, and Ayumi Sakamoto—and finished seven strokes ahead of Punahou to take home the state championships.

Punahou won the previous five state titles, while the title was 'Iolani's first state title in girls golf.

The Lady Raiders also captured the ILH championship

See KANA on Page 38

Lady Manta Rays post strong wins in fast-pitch softball

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays stepped up their game over the past two weeks and have their second and third consecutive quality victories to show for it. This was pretty evident as the 2012 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls fast-pitch softball league continued at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The level of play has really improved after the teams got in a few warm-up games to get things going, especially for second-ranked SSHS who are riding high off an 8-3 win over the Lady Knights of Mount Carmel School (0-4) on Monday and a sound 10-5 victory over the Marianas High School Lady Dolphins (1-4).

SSHS, last year's champs, bumped its record up to 4-2 and into a lock for second place in the standings.

The regular season wraps up at the Tan Ge Field after MCS' 4:30pm appointment with the undefeated Lady Ayuyus of Kagman High School (5-0).

Then the MISO single-elimination postseason tournament is set from May 18 to 19. More details will be released early next week.

See LADY on Page 38

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan Southern High School's Jovanna Okaruru went 2-for-3 and had two runs against Mt. Carmel School in their MISO girls fast-pitch softball league game last Wednesday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

11 teams to take part in U17 MBT

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A total of 11 teams—seven boys and four girls teams—will see action in the 17-and-under Micronesian Basketball Tournament set to start on May 20 at the Gilbert C. Ada and Marianas High School gymnasiums.

The organizing Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands said the competition will kick off with a soft opening on May 20 with a parade of all participating teams.

BANMI said Guam will be sending one team each for the boys and girls division, while Palau will only have one team for the boys division.

Tinian will be sending one team each for the boys and girls division, while host Saipan will be fielding a total of four teams for the boys and two teams for the girls division.

Boys division games will start on May 21 with the CNMI 1 taking on Tinian in the 10am opener. It will be followed by the game between Guam and CNMI 2 at 12pm.

The 2pm game will then pit Palau against Saipan 1 followed by Saipan 2 versus Guam at 4pm. The final two games of Day 1 will have CNMI 1 taking on Palau beginning 6pm and Saipan 1 against CNMI 2 starting 8pm.

The girls will also see action starting on May 21 with CNMI 1 squaring off against CNMI 2 in the 4:30pm opener. It will be followed by the 6:30pm game between Tinian and Guam.

The boys division will play at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with the Marianas High School Gymnasium hosting the girls.